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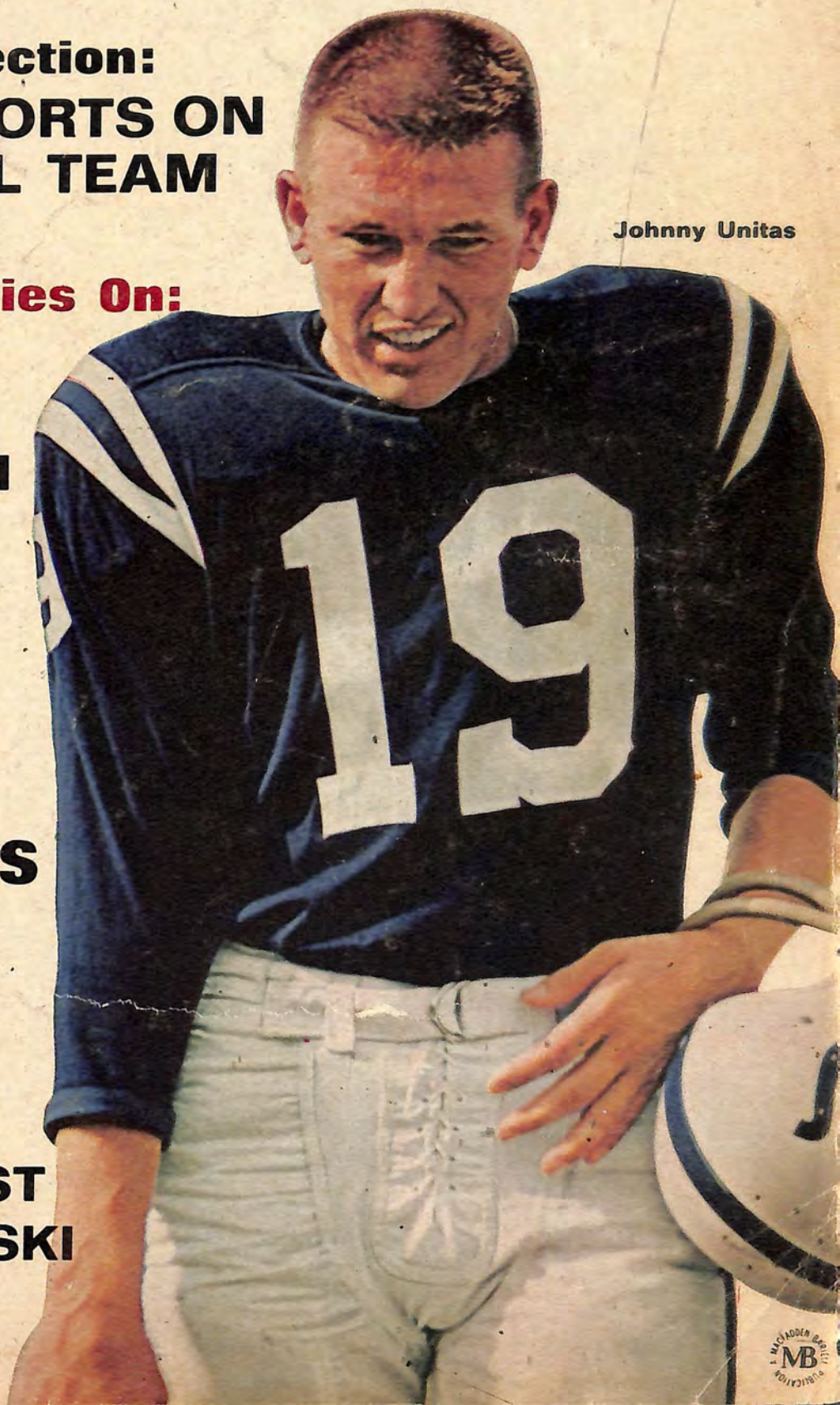
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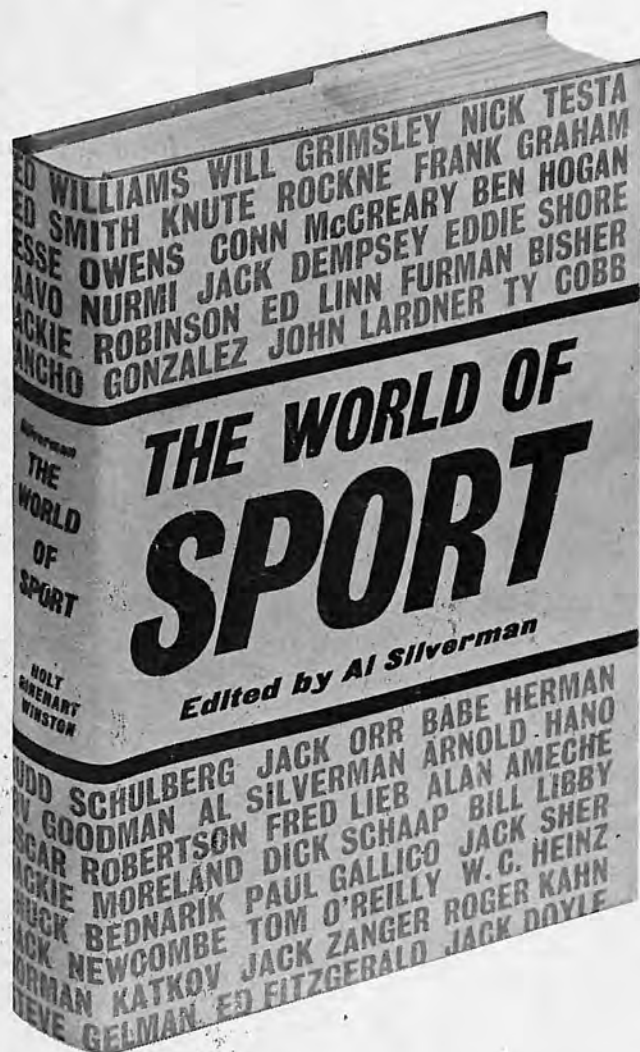
by Arthur Daley

**SPECIAL
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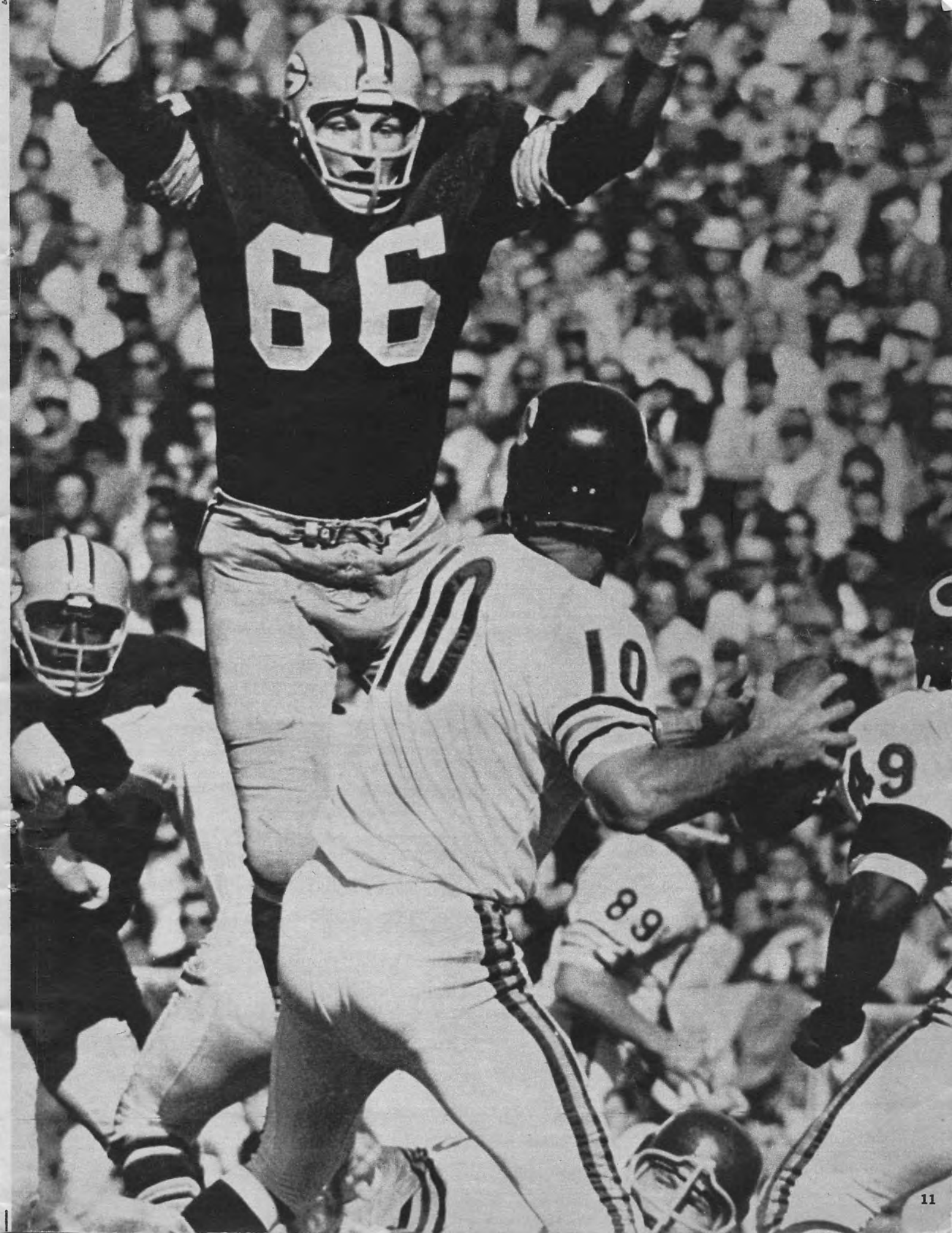
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CARLTON CHESTER "Cookie" Gilchrist, late of Buffalo, New York, now of Denver, Colorado, has to be one of the most astonishing individuals in the world of professional football. Carlton Chester is not, as the title of our little tale implies, the hero of a soap opera, though his life has covered most of the situations you would find in a "Portia Faces Life." He is a hero of different sorts, which is why he is so astonishing. He is a mixture of Horatio Alger, Abercrombie & Fitch, Peck's Bad Boy, Huckleberry Finn, the Lone Ranger, Captain Marvel. He is hero-villain, comic-tragedian, rich boy-poor boy, all rolled into one. He defies labeling. He is Public Non-Conformist No. 1, and is there anything more astonishing than that in this conformity-ridden world of ours?

About his football talents, he is the Jimmy Brown of the American Football League. He is not Jimmy Brown's peer as a runner—Brown, after all, is superhuman—but in all other departments he does quite well, thank you. Built like a Cossack at six-three, 255 pounds, with a 20-inch neck and a 50 jacket size, Gilchrist is the most powerful blocking back in football. "The first time I sting a man in a football game," he has said, "I sting him hard. The second time I sting him again. The third time, maybe he isn't going to be there."

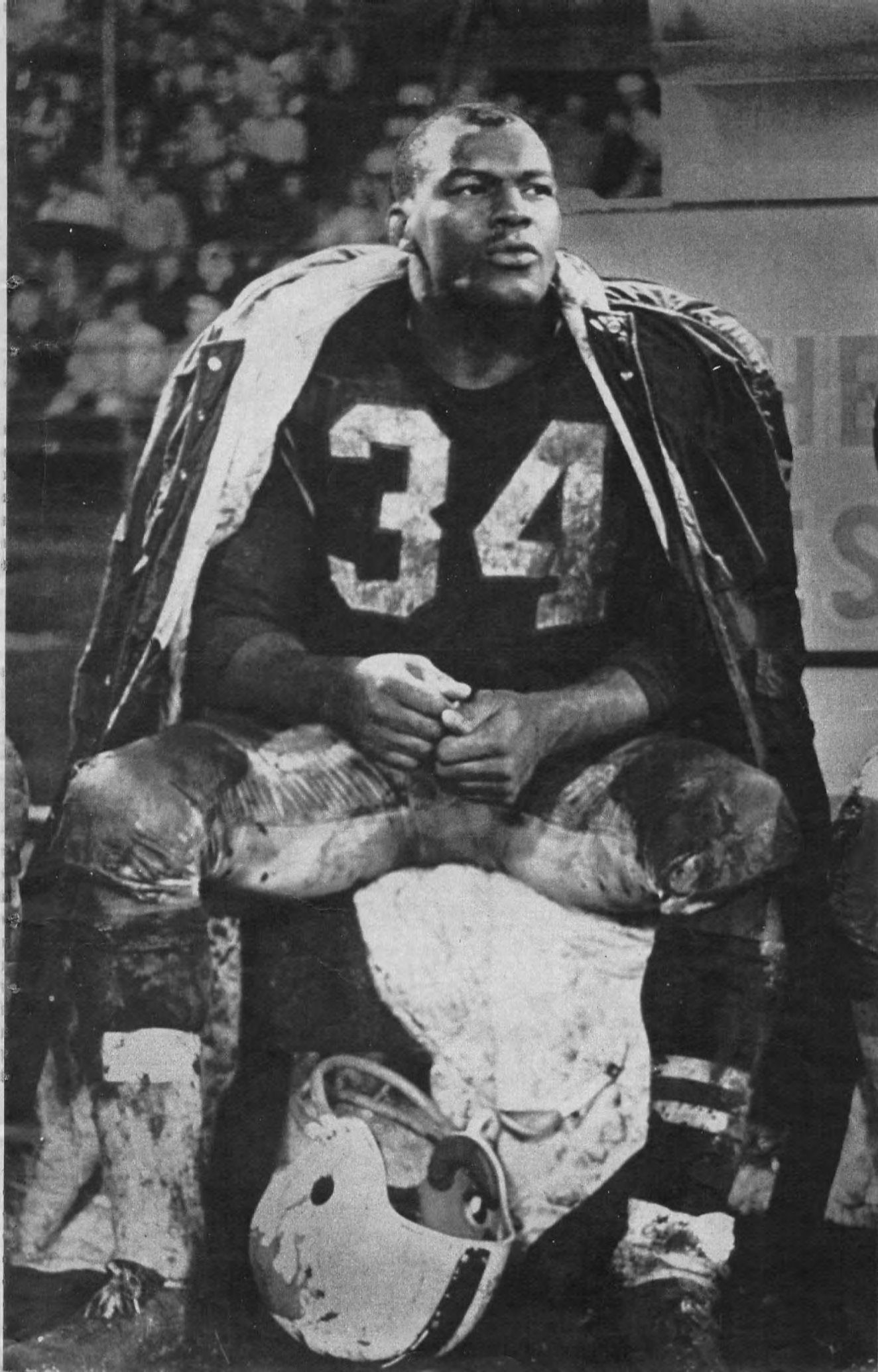
Which is perfectly true. But Gilchrist's sting carries beyond his blocking. Last year, working discontentedly for the Buffalo Bills, Cookie still led the AFL in rushing with 981 yards in 230 carries (a 4.2 average). And he displayed his full arsenal, like a Cossack in a May Day parade, in the AFL title game against San Diego. He carried 16 times for 122 yards. He caught two passes for 22 more yards and he stung would-be pass-rushers all over the half-frozen Buffalo turf. Buffalo won its first AFL championship, 22-7, and Cookie was the man who did it.

And so today, for all his troubles, Cookie Gilchrist is facing life in Denver, Colorado, having been dispatched from Buffalo shortly after the end of the season, for a fullback name of Billy Joe. Astonishing? Astonishing.

Why did the Buffalo Bills, the world champion Buffalo
12 Bills, courtesy of Mr. Gilchrist, choose to unload him? Simple.

Cookie Gilchrist Faces Life —In Denver

**Can a six-foot-three,
255-pound fullback out of a
steel town ghetto make
it big with his new team? Tune
in this fall to find out**



Cookie Gilchrist wanted out. Buffalo owner Ralph Wilson was more than willing to oblige. "When the season ended," Wilson told sports columnist Mel Durslag, "Cookie called me and said he wanted to be traded. He told me he couldn't play for Buffalo even for \$100,000. That was just about all we needed to get rid of him. We figured that if we had to put up with another season of his temperament, he would disrupt our whole team. He's a wonderful player and he could have as many as four good years left. But, in his frame of mind, we wouldn't gamble on keeping him in the interest of our team."

The Gilchrist frame of mind, naturally, is what makes him the astonishing person he is, what has led him to do the things he has done over the years. It is a complex, mercurial frame of mind, a combination of aggressiveness, boyish good humor, supreme ego, small-boy earnestness, arrogance, and beneath it all, holding it all up, a biological, sociological fact of life; the simple and sure meaning of what it is to be a Negro in mid-century America.

Cookie Gilchrist came out of a Negro ghetto in western Pennsylvania, the son of a steelworker. He grew big and strong and football took him out of his environment. And he knows that if it had not been for football, he would probably still be a part of that ghetto. But at 14 he was six feet tall and weighed 190 pounds and he was already proud and beginning to thumb his nose at the world. "I was sort of headstrong," he remembered. "My mother used to say, 'You're not going to live to be 20.'"

At 20, a school dropout, he was already playing professional football in Canada. He quit school in 1954 and the 11th grader reported to the Cleveland Browns' camp. He didn't stay long because Paul Brown, Cleveland's coach, felt Gilchrist should seek football experience elsewhere. And so the odyssey began. In 1954 he played for Sarnia. In 1955 for Kitchener, both minor-league Canadian clubs. In 1956 he was with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. And he was on his way. In 1957 he made both the All-Star offense and defense teams and led the Tiger-Cats to the Big Four championship. There wasn't a year he played in Canada that he didn't make the All-Star team. From Hamilton he went on to Regina, from Regina to Toronto, and from Toronto, after engaging in a series of elusive financial adventures, Cookie found himself in a hole and Toronto officials became disenchanted and Gilchrist was on his way—this time to American football, to Buffalo in the AFL.

He became a big star at once. But his non-football activities caused Buffalo almost as much embarrassment as his on-the-field heroics caused Buffalo pleasure. His various business deals, especially, were wearisome. First off, Cookie asked Buffalo owner Ralph Wilson to invest \$15,000 in a sporting goods establishment, to be called "Cookie's Closet, Inc." Wilson turned Cookie down because it seemed like a bad investment. Next, Wilson received a letter from Cookie outlining a plan for Gilchrist to work off-season as a public relations specialist. Cookie said he hoped to improve the image of the league and the team through personal appearances. "The only trouble was," Wilson told sports columnist Mel Durslag, "that on the day the letter arrived, Cookie got thrown into jail for fighting with the police."

Then came the *piece de resistance*. Cookie became a mining prospector. The Texas Gulf Sulphur Company had discovered a huge body of copper ore in northern Ontario. Cookie and his partner found that a certain part of the area was legally open. So he and his partner flew up, hired an Indian guide and spent a week camping out in the bush. They rented a helicopter and flew over the lake, dropping down on pontoons to drive poles into the water, staking out their claims. Once, Cookie got so excited he jumped right out of the helicopter into the lake. But Cookie staked his claims and is now sweating out the drilling that could

14 make him a millionaire, or thereabouts.

Rich Clarkson



An overpowering runner, Cookie led Buffalo to the AFL title

There was one other business Cookie tried to get Ralph Wilson to invest in. Last fall Cookie suggested to Wilson that for the title game in Buffalo he would like to sell 20,000 pairs of autographed Cookie Gilchrist earmuffs at the stadium. Wilson turned down that one, too.

And now it is Denver and Cookie must find what he can in Colorado. Being of a naturally acquisitive nature, he felt at first that Denver might not exactly serve his commercial bent. He actually didn't have Denver in mind when he asked to be traded. He would have preferred to have gone to Oakland or New York, where business opportunities are much greater. And when he was first informed of the deal, he made noises that troubled Denver officials. "I'm willing to play anywhere," Cookie said at the time. "All I've ever looked for in contract negotiations was a place to play where the management appreciated my services and did not restrict me physically or socially. . . . The Denver people are in business. They know I can put people in the stands. If they appreciate me as a man and a foot-



last year. During the season he rushed for 981 yards in 230 carries; in the championship game he carried 16 times for 122 yards.

ball player, we won't have any trouble."

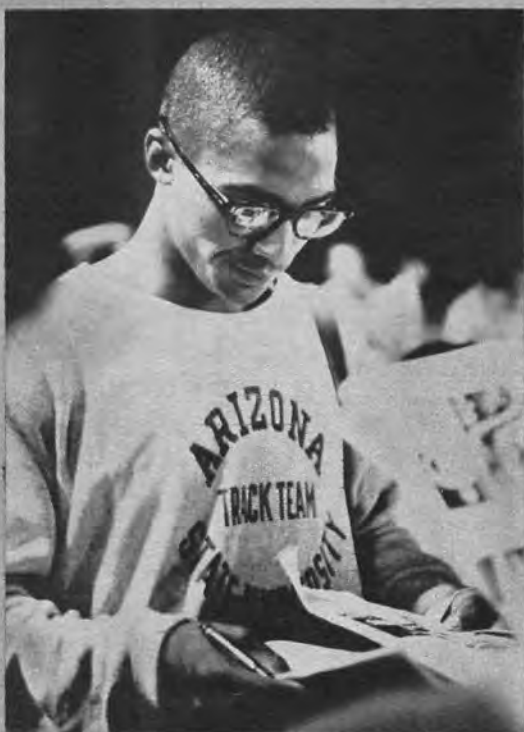
But for Cookie to be appreciated, Denver officials are going to require patience. Because Cookie Gilchrist's trouble—or his power and glory, depending on the way you look at it—is that he is a man who has always spoken his mind. A rare breed in sports. With Buffalo, his outspokenness often got him into trouble. Last year it reached a crescendo after he criticized certain teammates and his coach. The blowoff came in a late season game against the contending Boston Patriots. Buffalo lost, 32-26, and Gilchrist did not perform up to his best. And when it was all over, Buffalo coach Lou Saban was saying that Cookie was through. "The club is more important than any single individual," Saban said. Later, Cookie was reinstated, but only after he apologized publicly to the entire squad.

Fortunately it was for the team, too, because without Cookie, Buffalo probably couldn't have won the big one against San Diego. It was a very good thing for the franchise that Gilchrist was reinstated. If the ban against

Cookie had stood and Buffalo had blown the championship, how do you think the fans would have reacted to the Buffalo management? It's going to be bad enough this year in Buffalo, especially when Cookie comes to town in enemy costume. As one Buffalo official put it, "We lose to Denver and Cookie is responsible, the fans will kill us."

Maybe it will be different in Denver for Cookie, maybe it will be different from now on. Cookie Gilchrist is 30 years old now, with three or four more years ahead of him in football. He is a rational man and he is looking to the future. "I look upon life as the securing of my future," he says, "looking ahead to the day I won't be able to play football." He will, if he is wise, give football all he can in these remaining years, to help secure that future.

"I'm only 30," Cookie Gilchrist says today, "and all my business mistakes are behind me. In three or four years, I'll be financially independent. I've got no place else to go but up."



Are Olympians Henry Carr and Bob Hayes different from other sprinters who failed at pro football? Some insist they are

THE TRACK STARS ON THE SPOT

FRANK BUDD, Glenn Davis and Ray Norton were Olympic sprinters. They tried playing in the National Football League. They failed.

Bob Hayes and Henry Carr were Olympic sprinters. They are trying to play in the National Football League. And there, for now, the comparison must end, but many persons are predicting that neither will fail. Both Hayes and Carr, these optimists say, have what none of the other sprinters who tried their luck in football had: the size, the strength, the aggressiveness and the football experience to complement their breathtaking speed.

Among those forecasting bright futures for the two Olympic record-holders are Tom Landry, coach of the Dallas Cowboys, who signed Hayes to a \$100,000 contract; and Allie Sherman, head man of the New York Giants, who gave Carr a lesser, yet still impressive sum.

Says Sherman flatly of Carr: "He's as much of a football player as he was a world-record sprinter. He's different from the other sprinters who came into the league in that he has the football background and the size (6-3, 190). He may give the appearance of being slender, but he's tough and aggressive. He's a very hard-nosed individual."

Sherman says he plans to use Carr strictly on defense, possibly at safety at first, but eventually as a cornerback replacement for Dick Lynch or Erich Barnes. Carr, who has run both 220 yards and 200 meters in 20.2, setting an Olympic record in Tokyo at the latter distance, played

a little football at Arizona State and was a high-school All-America in Detroit.

Landry has yet to decide where to use Hayes, who won the Olympic 100 meters last year with a record 10.0 and who holds the world's record over 100 yards at 9.1. "His speed, size (5-11, 190) and his hands make you think first of a flanker," Landry said. "But we might utilize him as a runner on outside plays, pitches, quick traps, things that would spring him loose."

Hayes' college football credentials are impressive. Playing for Florida A&M he scored 66 points as a junior. The Olympics held him back but he started in the Senior Bowl, scoring on a 53-yard pass play from Joe Namath. He also scored on a 30-yard running play in the North-South Shrine game and was named the game's most valuable player.

His college coach, Jake Gaither, insists Hayes is really a football player who was dragooned into track when he was seen running wind sprints at football practice.

"What you saw on TV from Tokyo," said Gaither, "was a football player in a track uniform. He is a good receiver, a good broken-field runner, natural born shifty and loose. He can cut in any direction in a flash."

Whether Hayes and Carr can stand up to the punishment of pro football may be the deciding factor in how they turn out. But both Sherman and Landry think they have come up with rugged, aggressive players who just happen to be faster than anybody else in the world.

MASON ON THE MOVE

SINCE HE JOINED the Minnesota Vikings, Tommy Mason has had five roommates, one after the other. Four were football players, one was a monkey. Who can blame Mason for switching? Each of the football players got married and who knows what's contagious these days?

Not that Tommy Mason doesn't want to get married. He does. In 1999, perhaps, but not now. And anyway, monkeys swing, don't they? So does Tommy Mason.

Tommy Mason takes dramatic lessons and karate lessons and flying lessons and he sings with jazz groups and rock 'n' roll groups. He dates beautiful women and he serenades them with his guitar. He is part owner of a tropical island and he is full owner of a Cadillac.

Tommy Mason is 25 years old and he's handsome. He's 6-1, weighs 195, has a 44-inch chest and a 32-inch waist, powerful arms and legs. And Tommy Mason, one National Football League player says, "is football's leading lover and one of sport's greatest swingers."

Ah, yes. Football. Mason also does some moving on the football field. Running from halfback for the Vikings he has earned, in his time, All-Pro acclaim. His time has been the Vikings' time. He was their first draft choice when the team was organized and he has been with them since their first season, 1961. He has been their No. 1 star since 1962. "Mason," says Minnesota coach Norm (Dutch) Van Brocklin, "is our best runner, our best pass-receiver, our best blocker."

Tommy Mason loves you, too, coach. After all, didn't he name his monkey "Dutch?"

Mason came to the Vikings after a boyhood in Louisiana, and a college career at Tulane University. He was not an All-America at Tulane, but that was mostly because Tulane's team won few games and Tommy received little publicity. Football publicity, that is. He received considerable publicity as the friend of The Cat Girl.

The Cat Girl was a New Orleans stripper. And she and Tommy had some mutual interests. "You know," says Tommy. "We both liked to lift weights." They also, he says, liked to eat health foods and read romantic poetry and talk about a philosophy called Theosophy.

From Tulane he went to the Vikings and, at last, he received some football publicity. There was publicized praise for him from coaches like Weeb Ewbank, who ran the Baltimore Colts in 1962. "That Mason is great," said Ewbank. "He's the finest young runner to come along in years."

Mason's performances, of course, have inspired the publicity—performances like rushing 138 yards against the Detroit Lions in 1962 and 145 yards against Baltimore in 1962 and 143 yards against Baltimore in 1963 and 137 yards against Baltimore in 1964 as the Vikings upset the Western Conference champions.

Tommy Mason can indeed move on the football field, but he would like to move just a bit more. "I would like to gain 1000 yards in a season," he says. "And I'd like our team to win a championship."

He has some other thoughts on the future. "I've gotten used to the good life and I don't want to lose it," he says. "I'd like to play football as long as I can, then I'd like to get into show business. I don't think I'd set the world on fire, but I think it'd be fun. If not that, something else. But one thing for sure, I don't want to work for a living."

And marriage. "I'll get trapped one of these days," he says, "but I'm not looking for it. I mean, I like it the way it is now. I do what I want when I want to and where I want to and with anyone I want, and I'm having a great time. I guess a lot of guys wish they were in my shoes."

Shoes that move fast.

**The Vikings' star
halfback gets around
pretty good with
or without a football
under his arm. He
is a talented, hip and
happy young fellow**

Color by Lee Balterman

THE JIMMY BROWN SECRET

How has he broken sundry records and led his team to a title? With skills and with something else

WATCH JIMMY BROWN when the tacklers converge on him. Watch him bang away from one and another and a third. Watch him fight for a yard and a foot and an inch. Watch and you will see that it often takes a gang-tackle to bring him down.

Most of Jimmy Brown's skills are apparent to anyone—his speed and his power and his finesse. These skills make him a superstar. But there is something else that makes the Cleveland Browns' fullback *the* superstar, probably the greatest player in the history of pro football. The secret of that giant step is courage and the fighting determination that goes with it.

Jimmy Brown showed his courage in 1962, when, although he played almost a full season with a badly injured wrist, few people knew it.

And Jimmy Brown has shown his courage on about every run of his National Football League career. The runs have brought him NFL rushing leadership in seven of his eight pro years, and the NFL record for rushing yardage gained in a career. An astounding and courageous career.

If a hole exists, Brown, No. 32, shoots through it and into the open field. If a hole is not there, Brown helps open one.





San Diego's Swift Superstar

**Lance Alworth may be
professional football's best flanker.
But he says he's lazy**

LANCE ALWORTH hates practice, can't be concerned with the fine points of playing football and is lazy. That's what he says. There are others, however, who will tell you that the 25-year-old Alworth is the best flanker in football and that includes the flankers in the National Football League. Whatever the case, it is a fact that Alworth is nothing less than a superstar for the San Diego Chargers, one of the few members of that rare breed spawned by the AFL in its first years of existence.

Consider. Last year Alworth caught 61 passes for 1235 yards and 13 touchdowns, tops in the AFL. In all he scored 15 TDs, which also led the league. He scored 90 points, third best, and returned 17 punts for a 12.6-yard average, again third best. In 1963, Alworth's second year as a pro, it was the same story: 61 catches for 1206 yards and 11 touchdowns.

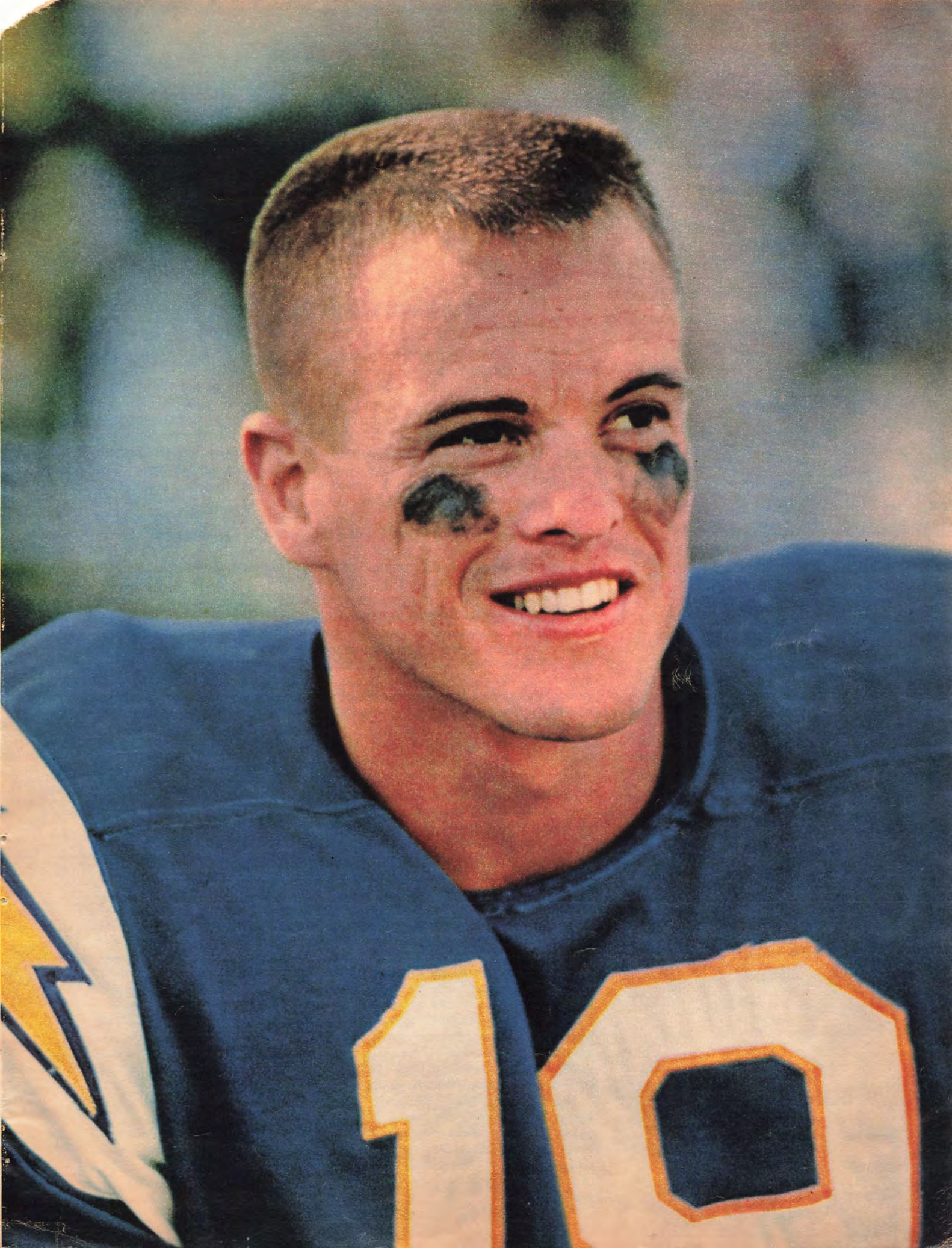
There was one difference between 1963 and 1964, though, a little matter of the league championship. In 1963 San Diego stomped Boston for the title, 51-10. Alworth was sensational, at one point scoring on a 48-yard pass play. When the game was over Ron Hall, assigned the joyless task of defending against him, could only say, "He's the greatest receiver I've ever seen."

But last year, when San Diego came up against Buffalo in the championship game, Alworth was on the bench wearing a white collar and tie, victim of a knee injury. San Diego lost, 20-7, and Charger quarterback Tobin Rote summed up Charger opinion after the game when he said that things would have been different had Alworth been in the lineup.

Lance evokes admiration from players on other teams in the league as well. Lionel Taylor, himself a pass receiver of no small ability, calls Alworth, the ideal receiver. What are the ingredients? Outstanding speed for one (he can go 100 yards in 9.6 seconds). For the rest, it's mostly his balance and timing. "He gets up in the air and takes the ball away from people," says Taylor. Boston's Hall puts the same thing another way: "I think he trains on a trampoline." And San Diego coach Sid Gillman says, "He has more ability as a receiver than anybody I've handled." Gillman, you remember, once coached the Los Angeles Rams when the passes were being caught by such renowned receivers as Elroy Hirsch and Tom Fears.

Says Lance himself: "I don't have the greatest moves in the world, that's for sure. Sid Gillman says I don't run close enough to the defensive backs before breaking away. I don't change directions or shift speeds or fake enough. I always seem to be in a crowd. I'm not strong enough to push people out of the way or tall enough to reach over them. So I have to outjump them. I can't tell you how I do it. I've always had good spring and timing. I just seem to go up at the right time and higher than the next guy."

None of the acclaim that has come to Alworth came easily. He had to overcome several obstacles, internal and external. For one thing, there is the self-inflicted "lazy" rap. "Football comes easy to me," Lance said. "I've never had to concern myself with the fine points





One defender calls Alworth, "the greatest receiver I've ever seen." Last year he led the AFL in touchdown passes caught and in overall TDs. His great asset is the ability to outjump defenders. "I just seem to get up at the right time and higher than the next guy," he says.

San Diego's Swift Superstar

continued

of the game. I hate practice, particularly in the pre-season when we have to do things over and over again. It bores me stiff."

Another problem for Alworth, one we should all be burdened with, is that he wasn't born poor and didn't grow up hungry. Handicaps like that can sometimes take the edge off a boy's competitive desire. "I had a good, soft childhood," he remembers. "I didn't want for anything. I was never a hungry athlete. But I've always loved football and taken pride in myself, and I've always forced myself to work hard enough to stay ahead of guys who were hungrier than I was."

Also, Lance got married when he was only 17 (his bride was 15) and the pressures of family life have been known to interfere with a man's concentration. Another obstacle was his proficiency in sports besides football, lots of sports.

Baseball scouts were a common sight around Lance's high school in Brookhaven, Mississippi, and figures such as \$25,000 and \$50,000 were waved in front of his nose from time to time. But he was determined to go to college, resisted the lure of the diamond and kept on with his basketball and golf, high jumping and broad jumping.

At first Lance was set on going to the University of Mississippi, but Ole Miss does not give athletic scholarships to married athletes and Lance wound up at Arkansas. For a while he divided his time there between football and baseball, but gradually drifted away from baseball. "Baseball is harder on me mentally than football," he said. "Like I said, I'm lazy. And I'm a worrier. If I strike out one time, I worry so much I might strike out five times. And I'd have to play every day. In football, I have more time to get ready for each game. Also, in college, everything works around football, the whole campus spirit." While Lance was there, Arkansas won one Southwest Conference title and tied for two more. As a junior he led the nation in punt returns and as a senior he gained nearly 1000 yards. Pro scouts were impressed and the San Francisco 49ers chose him as their first draft choice while the Chargers picked him second. He signed with San Diego for what was then a large amount of cash: a \$10,000 bonus and \$15,000 a year.

His pro career did not begin brilliantly. Early in 1962, his first year, his right knee began to hurt, but when doctors said it was only a muscle pull he tried to keep playing, appearing in only four games and catching but 10 passes. But at the end of the season he saw a doctor in New York who said his injury was not a muscle pull at all, but rather a torn thigh muscle. By continuing to play, the doctor said, he had aggravated the tear. Lance was operated on, the tear healed and now he runs at full speed again.

At 6-0, 185, Alworth is relatively frail by pro standards and he has recurrent injury scares. At Arkansas he was a running back but he was only too glad to make the switch to flanker. "I wouldn't want to try being a running back here," he said. "I had my fill of running through those big lines in college."

During the off-season Lance lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, where his college days have made him a local celebrity. He works for a public relations firm, has a television show and has dabbled a bit in state politics. Once he even started law school with an eye toward a political career for himself when his playing days were through. But then he decided that golf was a more pleasant way to spend the off-season.

"Like I said," he maintains with a grin, "I'm lazy."

NFL

National Football League

1965 PREVIEW

EASTERN CONFERENCE
By BERRY STAINBACK

WESTERN CONFERENCE
By FRED KATZ

We firmly believe 1965 will be the most successful in the history of the National Football League. It will be so because it will represent the culmination of 46 years of dedicated effort on the part of many, an effort that has resulted in accelerated fan interest in the National Football League during the past decade. The League will be balanced and competition will be keen. These are the factors that have enabled us to present a high form of competitive entertainment in stadia and on selective nationwide television.

We believe we will have these factors more than ever before in 1965.

Martin Blumenthal



Pete Rozelle

PETE ROZELLE
National Football League Commissioner

NOTE: All predictions are based on team rosters as of June 1. Subsequent trades cannot be accounted for here.

Cleveland has the best offense,
Dallas the best defense, and St. Louis
has the key—the best balance



ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Good offense, good defense and good luck spell title.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Good offense and weak defense spell trouble in repeating.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Do the Skins need a fullback? Does Bobby Mitchell need hands?

DALLAS COWBOYS

A healthy QB, they contend, will make them contend.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

With a 15-year contract, Joe Kuharich has time to build.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

They need a QB the way White House aides need flashlights.

NEW YORK GIANTS

A youth movement brings bright hopes, bleak prospects.

The Packers' luck is due for a change. And, for good measure, their defense makes its own breaks

ILLUSTRATED BY RAY HOULIHAN



GREEN BAY PACKERS

They'll get more of a kick out of this year than last.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

The Russians could take a lesson on five-year plans.

BALTIMORE COLTS

It was great fun, but it was just one of those things.

DETROIT LIONS

In the air: A-OK. On the ground: No go.

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Tarzan's screams for help Curried all the way to Green Bay.

CHICAGO BEARS

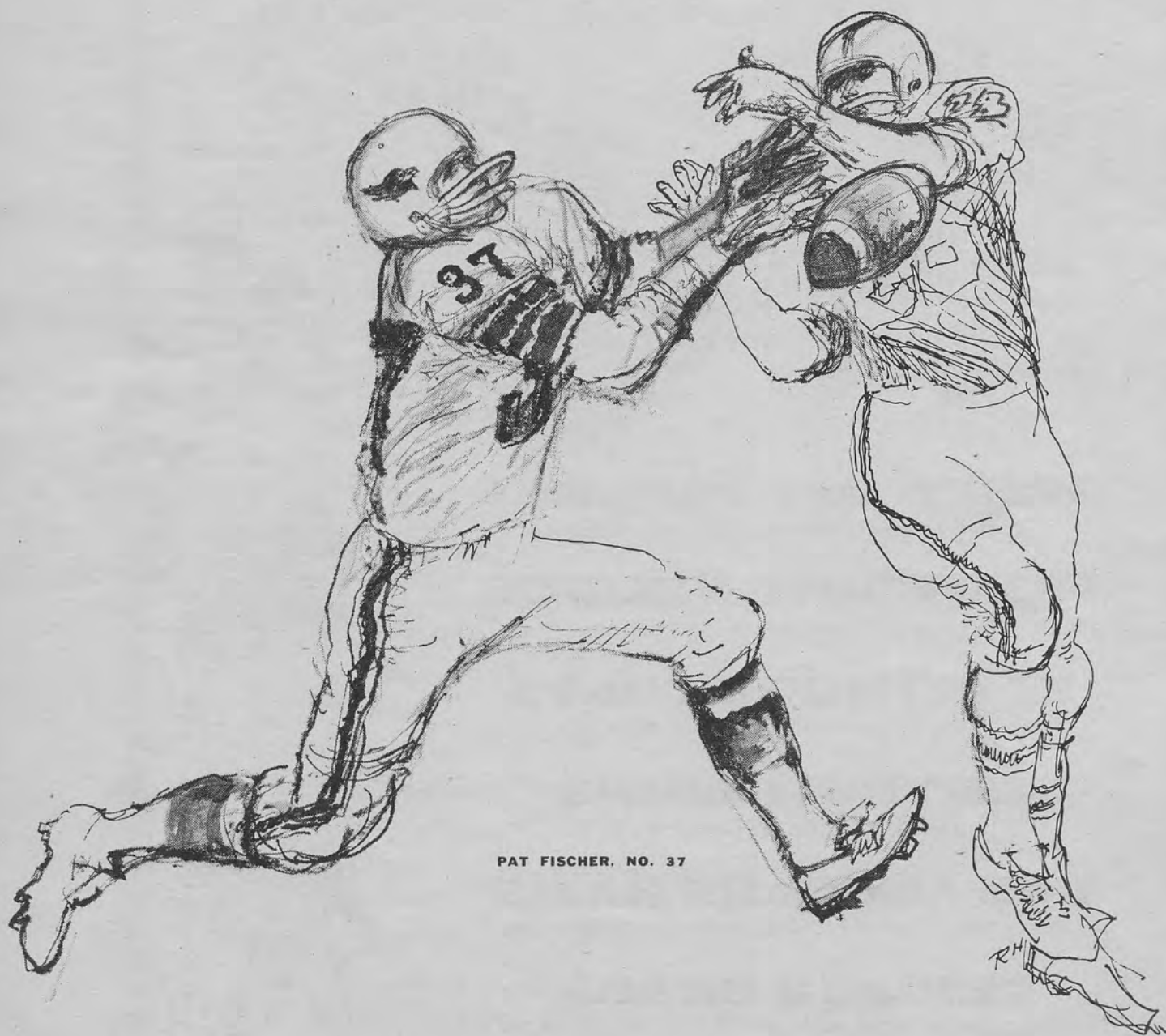
Will some expensive rookie backs give Halas a run for his money?

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

They can't afford to have opponents eat Crow.



ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



PAT FISCHER, NO. 37

The Cardinals missed a playoff with the Browns by only a half game last season, and they are the solidest team in the East this season. We pick them to win

BILL KOMAN, THE outspoken linebacker for the St. Louis Cardinals, said in the July issue of SPORT magazine: "After the Browns beat the Giants the second game, Frank Ryan (Cleveland quarterback) said nobody could defense them. Well, I'd like him to look at the films of our games. We stopped them dead. We could beat the Browns six-and-a-half times out of seven games."

By Koman's calculations, the Cardinals beat the Browns one-and-a-half times out of two games last season. St. Louis tied Cleveland, 33-33, and won the second game, 28-19. Of course, St. Louis also tied and lost to New York, the worst team in the East. As it turned out, had the Cards beaten the Giants, they—and not the Browns—would have met the Colts in the championship game. After that loss in New York, the Cardinals were undefeated in their last seven games (including a 24-17 win over the Packers in the Playoff Bowl), and finished just a half game behind the Browns.

This season, we feel the Cardinals will finish ahead of the Browns, and every other Eastern team. They have a very solid ballclub, and even strengthened themselves over the previous year. The injury-jinxed John David Crow was traded to the San Francisco 49ers for Abe Woodson, a great kick-returner who had his troubles at cornerback last season. Still, Woodson has been an excellent defender in the past and could move right into Jimmy Hill's old right corner spot this year. The left cornerback is little Pat Fischer, and he was as good as any in the league in '64 (he had ten interceptions, two for touchdowns). The veteran Hill and young Jimmy Burson can provide fine depth. Larry Wilson is a hard-nosed free-safety and Jerry Stovall is fast becoming a very good one on the strong side.

St. Louis' linebackers—Koman and Larry Stallings on the outside and underrated Dale Meinert in the middle—are not spectacular, but they make very few mistakes and do an excellent job. Lemm hopes to solve a depth problem with youngsters such as Dick Dean and No. 2 draft choice Dave Simmons of Georgia Tech. The biggest improvement coach Wally Lemm would like to see is in his pass rush. Ends Joe Robb and Don Brumm and tackles Sam Silas and Luke Owens do not consistently pressure a quarterback as much as he'd like, though the fast-improving Silas could develop into a top rusher.

On offense, the team has tremendous potential. "The key will continue to be Charley Johnson," Lemm says. This highly intelligent young quarterback (he's working on a doctorate in chemical engineering) has gained an enormous amount of experience in the three years he's been a starter. Last year he led the league in completions and yards gained passing, but he also led in interceptions (24, as against 21 touchdown passes). He has to learn to throw the ball away or eat it when his receivers are covered, and he should have learned it by this coming season. His receivers, as a group, are as good as any in the league. Flanker Bobby Joe Conrad has caught 196 passes in the last three years, and split end Sonny Randle is even more dangerous. Tight end Jackie Smith caught 47 passes in '64 as a second-year man, taking the job from Taz Anderson.

The Cardinal offensive line is probably the best in the league now. Center Bob DeMarco, guard Ken Gray and tackle Ernie McMillan are outstanding, and tackle Bob Reynolds and guard Irv Goode are not too much behind. The team's rookie-of-the-year, Herschel Turner, and young Rick Sortun have fine potential. Running through that line will be backs like Bill Tripplett (returning from a lung infection), Joe Childress, Willis Crenshaw and Bill Thornton. No other team has this kind of depth among its running backs. And no other team in the East has the all-round solidarity of the Cardinals. Of course, if you don't believe us, just ask Bill Koman.



**Any team that gave up
more yardage than Jim Brown,
Frank Ryan and company
gained last year, has large
troubles in its defense**

FRANK RYAN, NO. 13

CLEVELAND BROWNS

FIGURES can be deceiving, but when you look at the Cleveland Browns' statistics for the regular season you have to wonder how they got into the championship game. Browns' opponents ran 81 more plays than Cleveland, made 20 more first downs, gained 236 more yards. The opposition controlled the ball most of the time, yet still was out-scored: 293 points to 415 for Cleveland. So the Browns' defense was vulnerable, very vulnerable, but it made the big play when it had to even though the opposition moved the ball all over the field (completing a whopping 57.4 percent of its passes).

Browns' coach Blanton Collier points out in retrospect that sidelining injuries to defensive tackles Frank Parker and Bob Gain hurt the pass rush (there just didn't seem to be one much of the time), as did the shoulder injury to end Paul Wiggin. Naturally, lack of a pass rush affected the secondary, which was further hurt by the loss of safety Ross Fichtner for nine games and by hampering injuries to the strong-side safety, Larry Benz. But even when healthy the Cleveland defense's personnel does not rank among the league's best. Bernie Parrish has never been an outstanding cornerback, while Walter Beach, the man who replaced the retired Jim Shofner on the other corner last season, had been released by the American Football League when it was desperate for defensive backs. And the defensive end opposite Wiggin, Bill Glass, has not been the pass-rusher with Cleveland that he was among the fearsome Detroit front four.

The best area of the Browns defense is its linebackers. Neither the outside men, Galen Fiss and Jim Houston, nor the middle linebacker, Vince Costello, are fast. But they do an excellent job getting back to help out on pass defense and all of them play percentage football.

The Browns' offense is, of course, outstanding. Jim Brown had his usual spectacular season in '64 and shows no signs of slowing down. Halfback Ernie Green complements him very well, rushing for 491 yards and scoring ten touchdowns on the ground and with pass catches. The man behind Green, rookie Leroy Kelly, gained little experience running from scrimmage. Frank Ryan, who is probably as good a running quarterback as you'll find, came on very well as a passer in '64. He still isn't in the superstar class, but the confidence he gained in taking his team to a championship in only his second full season as a regular could prove invaluable to him this year.

One of the major reasons for Ryan's ability to move the team a year ago was a rookie split end named Paul Warfield, who caught 52 passes for 920 yards and nine touchdowns. Flanker Gary Collins, who tied for the league lead in touchdown catches in '63 with 13, had eight scoring catches last year in only 35 receptions. Tight end John Brewer is a fine blocker and underrated receiver simply because he isn't thrown to enough. Collins and Warfield are good blockers, too, and were one reason the Cleveland sweeps were so effective last year. This team is fortunate in its passing (Jim Ninowski) and receiving depth (Tom Hutchinson, Clifton McNeil and Walt Roberts).

Other strong points are the offensive line, led by tackle Dick Schafrath and center John Morrow, and the team's place-kicking. A rookie place-kicker from Louisiana Tech, Dave Lee, will be brought to camp to challenge Lou Groza. But the seemingly ageless Groza had another great season in '64, kicking 22 of 32 field goals. Keeping his weight down is very likely the toughest challenge he'll face.

The Browns, as world champions, are the team to beat, and they can be beaten. Even though the defense played a near-perfect game in the playoff with the Baltimore Colts, the defense, we feel, is too weak to help take this team into another title game.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

They need only a fullback to be in contention all the way

REDSKIN flanker Bobby Mitchell told us this spring: "If we get by those first four games this year, frankly I don't know who's gonna stop us. Our defense is what I'm really tickled about. They're gonna hold these teams down and give us a fighting chance, 'cause we've got a scoring team. All we need is a little help at fullback for Charley Taylor." He summed up the Redskin team pretty well.

The club lost its first four games last year after coach Bill McPeak rebuilt it with 50 percent new personnel. It was a different ballclub once the personnel got used to working with each other. And this year Washington could be in contention right from the start. Sonny Jurgensen, who missed the '64 exhibition season, knows his teammates now, and he is the best quarterback in the East. Mitchell leads the fine set of receivers. Sprinter Angelo Coia came from the Bears and proved a dangerous long receiver. Pat Richter, a good pass-catcher who couldn't do the blocking job at tight end, will battle Coia at split end this season. Preston Carpenter did an excellent job at closed end.

Charley Taylor, the NFL rookie-of-the-year last season, was an amazing halfback, but he was the entire Washington running game. He gained 1569 yards rushing and receiving and scored ten touchdowns. The fullbacks gained less than 400 yards rushing among them. Pervis Atkins has the speed to play fullback if he can put on about 15 pounds (to 222). McPeak hopes one of two rookie fullbacks, Tom Urbanik of Penn State or J.R. Briggs of Central Oklahoma State, can move right in. Urbanik is a battering-type runner, Briggs is a sprinter. Ex-Bear Rick Casares will also be tried at fullback.

An improvement in the offensive line would also help, and McPeak is doing some shifting in an attempt to strengthen the unit. George Seals, the 6-3, 262-pound rookie tackle of '63, goes to guard since he is the club's fastest lineman. Vince Promuto, who missed five games due to injuries last year, will battle veteran John Nisby for the right guard spot. Fran O'Brien is set at right tackle and Notre Dame rookie Jim Snowden is the most likely candidate for the left tackle position.

Last year the Redskins went from 12th ranked in passing to fourth ranked, largely on the strength of Jurgensen's arm. The defense also improved from 12th to fourth, but on the strength of the entire defensive squad's play. McPeak built a good unit. Much maligned middle linebacker Sam Huff brought skill and leadership to the defense, and he worked well with veterans John Reger and Jimmy Carr in backing the line.

The once-porous Washington secondary led the league in interceptions with 34, nine more than its nearest rival. Rookie Paul Krause stole 12 of them, including interceptions in seven successive games, a league record. He was the All-Pro free safety. The strong safety, Jim Steffen, is not outstanding on pass coverage and could lose his job to second-year man Tom Walters, a speedster like Krause. On the corners, Johnny Sample continues to be a bit inconsistent, but Lonnie Sanders gets better all the time.

Every team in the league would like a little better pass rush and the Redskins are no exception. Still, mean John Paluck and young Ron Snidow are big, strong ends, and tackle Joe Rutgens on the right and Bob Toneff and Fred Williams, who split time on the left, are very hard to run against.



CHARLEY TAYLOR, NO. 42



BOB LILLY, NO. 74

DALLAS COWBOYS

**In '64 the Cowboys had the East's best
defense and worst offense. A healthy Don Meredith
could make them contenders this year**

THE COWBOY offense, which in '62 had scored 31 touchdowns passing, scored only ten through the air last season. Injuries to quarterback Don Meredith were the big reason.

Meredith is healthy after a knee operation and the Dallas offense should be much better this year. "For the first time since I came to Dallas," coach Tom Landry said this spring, "we have enough material on the defensive team to have depth and size and talent at every position." The line, he feels, is young but good—tackles Tony Liscio and Jim Boeke, guards Mike Connelly and Jake Kupp. Connelly moves from center, where Dave Manders and Rice rookie Malcolm Walker will battle for the job.

The team's receivers are exceptional. Frank Clarke supposedly was headed for the bench or another team in '64 after Dallas acquired Tommy McDonald and Buddy Dial, but Clarke had his greatest season. He caught 65 passes to place third in the league. Dial should be as good as ever now that he and Meredith are healthy. Also, two rookie quarterbacks, Craig Morton and Jerry Rhone, should provide better depth than the team had in '64. Landry has another potentially fine receiver in rookie Bob Hayes, the world's fastest human. The tight ends are Pettis Norman and Lee Folkins.

Unfortunately, the team hasn't enough good running backs. The fearless but often injured Don Perkins is among the league's best backs, a slashing inside runner with fine balance. However, he has had to play fullback at 206 pounds and would probably be more effective at halfback if Amos Marsh or Jim Stiger were consistent at fullback. Perry Lee Dunn is listed as Perkins' running mate on the basis of his showing near season's end. Jimmy Sidle, a big, fast back from Auburn, could well win a starting job, though, in the exhibition games.

Dallas' defensive unit was second in the league only to Green Bay in overall effectiveness. The line, which features large young pass rushers like ends George Andrie (6-7, 255 pounds) and Larry Stephens (6-3, 250) and tackle Jim Colvin (6-2, 255), is led by 6-5, 255-pound Bob Lilly. Switched from defensive end to tackle at the close of the '63 season, Lilly became an All-Pro last year. He is a fierce pursuer of quarterbacks, the best in the East, and he is still learning.

There may be changes at the linebacker positions as Lee Joy Jordan fights veteran Jerry Tubbs for the middle job and Dave Edwards, Harold Hays and rookies Roger Pettee and Russell Wayt vie for the left side. Speedy Chuck Howley is set on the right. The secondary has lost a key man in Jim Ridlon, who retired after an excellent season at strong safety. Rookie Mel Renfro was spectacular on kick returns and at free safety, but Ridlon's steadying influence will be missed. Although Cornell Green does well on one corner, Don Bishop and Warren Livingston split time on the other, showing a weakness there. One major Cowboy weakness of a year ago was solved with the acquisition of two-way kicker Danny Villanueva from the Rams for Tommy McDonald.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Having Timmy Brown for a full season will help the offense, but the defense could be hurt badly if it depends on a safetyman-cornerback blitz again

WHEN Joe Kuharich took over as head coach and general manager of the Eagles last year, he made a lot of people ex-Eagle employees. This included the team publicity director and the equipment manager, which made you wonder. Many people wondered about Joe's player trades, too, particularly the one that sent quarterback Sonny Jurgensen to Washington for Norm Snead. Jurgensen was the third-ranked passer in the NFL last season, while Snead finished 11th, the same place he'd finished the season before. Still, that was the only really bad trade Kuharich made. The Eagles, who had won two out of 14 games in '63 while finishing last, won six of 14 in '64 and finished tied for third. Kuharich did such a good job that team owner Jerry Wolman signed him to a 15-year contract as general manager. This gives Joe a little time to build a still better team.

Although the Eagles were not too successful in signing draft choices this past winter, Kuharich apparently feels his present personnel is strong enough to improve in the standings because he had not, as we went to press, made any trades. However, this is a club with a number of weaknesses, and you can start with Snead at quarterback. After four years in the league, Snead has not really improved very much. You have to put him down as a middle-of-the-pack quarterback. The men behind him are King Hill, who is an adequate backup man at best, and Jack Concannon, who looked like a better running-back candidate than quarterback candidate as a rookie. He has size, agility, good leg drive and a seemingly mediocre passing arm. His arm may be better than it looks if he can learn to pass from the pocket rather than on the run.

Another weakness a year ago was the defense, which performed over its head and will likely have a difficult time this season if it doesn't come up with some pass rushers who start from the line. Defensive coaches Fred Bruney and Dick Evans did a fine job in setting up blitzes with defensive backs and in sustaining the blitz all season (the secret was disguising when the backs were coming). But it is doubtful this defense will work through another season. The Cardinals were effective with safetyman Larry Wilson blitzing—until the defenses adjusted. Once a blocker started picking up Wilson, the opposing quarterback started bombing Wilson's vacated area. Teams blitz with defensive backs only when their rush lines do not pressure the quarterbacks enough.

Tackles Floyd Peters and John Myers are adequate against the run, but neither they nor ends George Tarasovic or Bobby Richards broke into enemy backfields consistently. The linebackers are probably the strongest part of the Eagle defense. Veteran Maxie Baughan is a fine, steady performer, and unheralded Mike Morgan showed promise as a rookie at the other outside position. Dave Lloyd is a dependable middle man, though young and aggressive Don Hultz could push him this season. The secondary has one good cornerback, Irv Cross, and a smart veteran free safety, Don Burroughs. Nate Ramsey on



PETE RETZLAFF, NO. 44

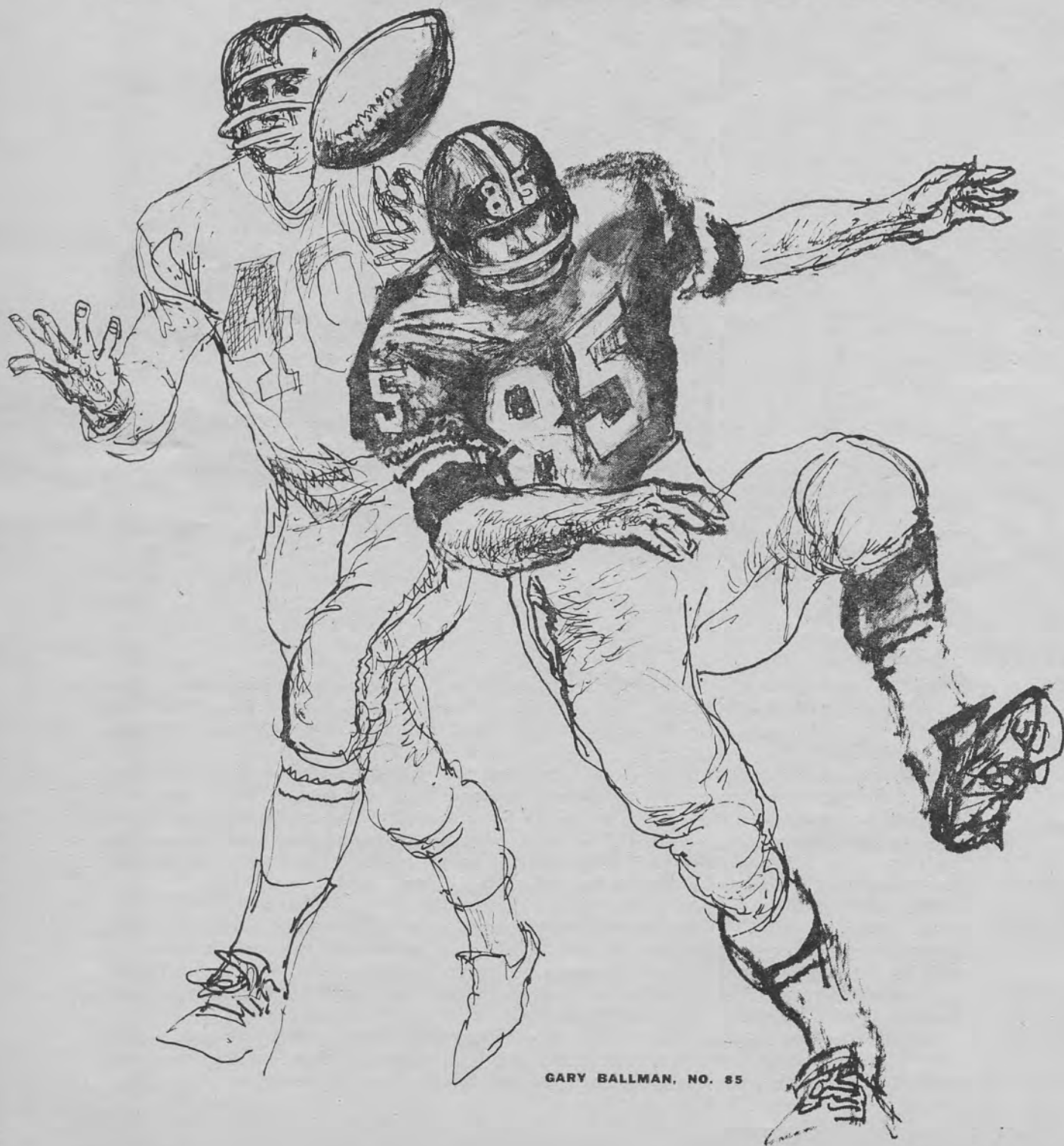
the left corner is an excellent tackler, but needs more experience on pass coverage, as does strong safety Joe Scarpatti. Two rookies, Al Nelson, a 9.7 sprinter from Cincinnati who is expected to sign with Philadelphia, and Fred Hill of Southern Cal, will get trials in the secondary.

Assistant coach Dick Stanfel did an exceptional job with the offensive line in his first year. He hopes to improve on a guard and tackle position, and rookie Ray Rissmiller of Georgia may end up at one spot. The line is solid at center, which is manned by the veteran Jim Ringo, and at right tackle, where speedy, 280-pound Bob Brown looked like one of the best offensive linemen to come into the league in years last season. He has All-Pro potential. Ed Blaine is a capable ballplayer at the other guard.

The team's strongest point is its running backs. Fullback Earl Gros rushed for 748 yards (on a 4.9 average) in his first season as a regular. Although halfback Timmy Brown had thigh surgery that caused him to miss four games and parts of six others, he still led the Eagles in touchdowns (ten), in returning kickoffs (692 yards) and in returning punts (96 yards). He is among the league's top halfbacks, and his backup man, Ollie Matson, proved he could still run with the ball (gaining 404 yards).

Except for Pete Retzlaff (51 catches for 855 yards and eight touchdowns as a tight end), the receivers are not outstanding, though Ray Poage and Ron Goodwin are young enough to get better. However, the team, in our opinion, will not be better.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS



GARY BALLMAN, NO. 85

Coach Buddy Parker, who has aging running backs and very young ends, is committed to finding a quarterback among four unsung and untried virtual rookies

ART ROONEY, owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers since they were formed in 1933, has never realized his desire to see his team in an NFL championship game. His friends, who number in the hundreds, say Art would rather see the Steelers win a title than see his horses win big-money races. But Rooney will likely find more enjoyment at the race track than at Steeler games again this year.

Coach Buddy Parker has committed himself to finding a new quarterback. Ed Brown, 36 years old now, had the worst completion percentage (44.5) in the league last year and was little better the year before when Pittsburgh had its best title shot in a decade. Parker traded quarterback Terry Nofsinger to the Cardinals for a second-year defensive tackle, Ken Kortas. So Parker will try to find a starting quarterback and a backup man or two from among four unsung youngsters. Bill Nelson, from USC, has been with the club two years, yet his experience consists of one start and brief appearances in a few other games. Tommy Wade, who worked with the Steelers late last season while playing weekends in the Atlantic Coast Football Conference, got a little NFL experience in '64, too. Two rookies, Tom Kennedy and Dave Mathieson, have experience in the United Football League.

Not only is Pittsburgh in need of someone to throw the ball, it also needs people to catch it. Last year Parker traded Buddy Dial and Red Mack, then released Preston Carpenter. Since his No. 1 draft choice, Paul Martha, couldn't catch and had to be benched, and since his other fine rookie receiving prospect, Jim Kelly, had to be hospitalized with a knee operation, the Steelers were desperate for ends. Clendon Thomas had to be switched from safetyman to split end. He did so well that he may be kept there unless Martha rebounds or rookie Roy Jefferson looks good in camp. Jefferson was an outstanding pass-receiver at Utah (he could become the Pittsburgh place-kicker as well). Veteran John Powers and Mel Profit, the 6-5, 210-pounder who was cut by the Rams in '64, will contend with Kelly for the tight end position. No one will battle Gary Ballman for the wingback job. Despite being double-teamed most of the year, he caught 47 passes for 935 yards and seven touchdowns. A sprinter with good hands and moves, Ballman could become an all-league flanker.

The team's running backs are aging, but they still do the job. Fullback John Henry Johnson rushed for 1048 yards and eight touchdowns in '64, then announced his retirement. No one believes him. Halfback Clarence Peaks gained 503 yards on the ground. Dick Hoak, Phil King and Theron Sapp are the reserves.

The Steeler offensive line continues to be very good. Tackles Dan James and Charley Bradshaw, guards Ray Lemek and Mike Sandusky and center Buzz Nutter are especially strong on running plays. This is a necessity in the ball-control offense Parker likes to have and has had to have with his poor quarterbacking.

The defensive line was inconsistent early last season as two rookies were learning to play in the NFL. Ben McGee, a powerful and quick 245-pounder from Jackson State, came on as a rugged pass rusher from end. Chuck Hinton, a 6-5, 265-pound tackle who was dropped in earlier trials by both the Browns and Colts, got a chance to play with the Steelers and he played very well.

Steeler linebacking will be better if middle man Myron Pottios can stay healthy for a full season and if Andy Russell gets out of the Army in time to regain a regular job. Pottios has All-Pro potential, but he always seems to get hurt. In fact, Pittsburgh's linebackers have been jinxed by injuries so much in recent years that Parker has five veterans coming to camp in addition to Pottios and Russell. Parker would like to have that kind of depth in his defensive secondary, which had only one top back, Brady Keys, once Thomas shifted to offense. Marv Woodson, recovered from a knee operation, should help as a defensive back. Art Rooney would appreciate any help at all for his team.

NEW YORK GIANTS

Using many rookies, the Giants will change their offense and defense. Changing their record will be more difficult

COACH Allie Sherman received considerable criticism last season, from fans, press, opponents and his own players. He tried to begin rebuilding his aging Giants before the older players all slipped too much or retired. But when he traded veterans Dick Modzelewski, Sam Huff and Phil King, he hurt team morale among the other veterans more than he ever anticipated. Then the Giants suffered a series of costly injuries, including one to Y.A. Tittle . . . and the team that had been the best team in the East for three successive seasons was abruptly the worst in the league.

Now, only offensive tackle Rosey Brown, defensive end Jim Katcavage and safetyman Jim Patton are left from New York's '56 championship team. And Sherman will experience sort of a season-long children's hour this season.

Fortunately, New York had its best draft in many years. The Giants signed perhaps the top running back prospect in the country, 6-3, 220-pound speedster Tucker Frederickson of Auburn, and a fair one in 6-2, 225-pound Ernie Koy of Texas. New Giant defensive backfield coach Em Tunnell feels the sleeper pick is a 6-0, 215-pound sprinter named Smith Reed from Alcorn A&M. Since the team already has two potentially good sophomore runners in 245-pound fullback Ernie Wheelwright (402 yards gained in '64) and Steve Thurlow (210 yards gained), the running game looks promising.

This is a very nice thing since the Giants have no quarterback. At least not in the tradition of NFL quarterbacks. Gary Wood picked up tremendous experience, along with many painful bruises, as a rookie. But Wood, at 5-10, had trouble passing over the large pro linemen and Sherman will no doubt have to put in a modified rollout offense for Gary this year. Leading quarterback signee, Michigan's Bob Timberlake, is also a rollout quarterback. At 6-4 he won't have trouble seeing to throw, but with the arm he displayed in college he may have trouble simply throwing among the pros.

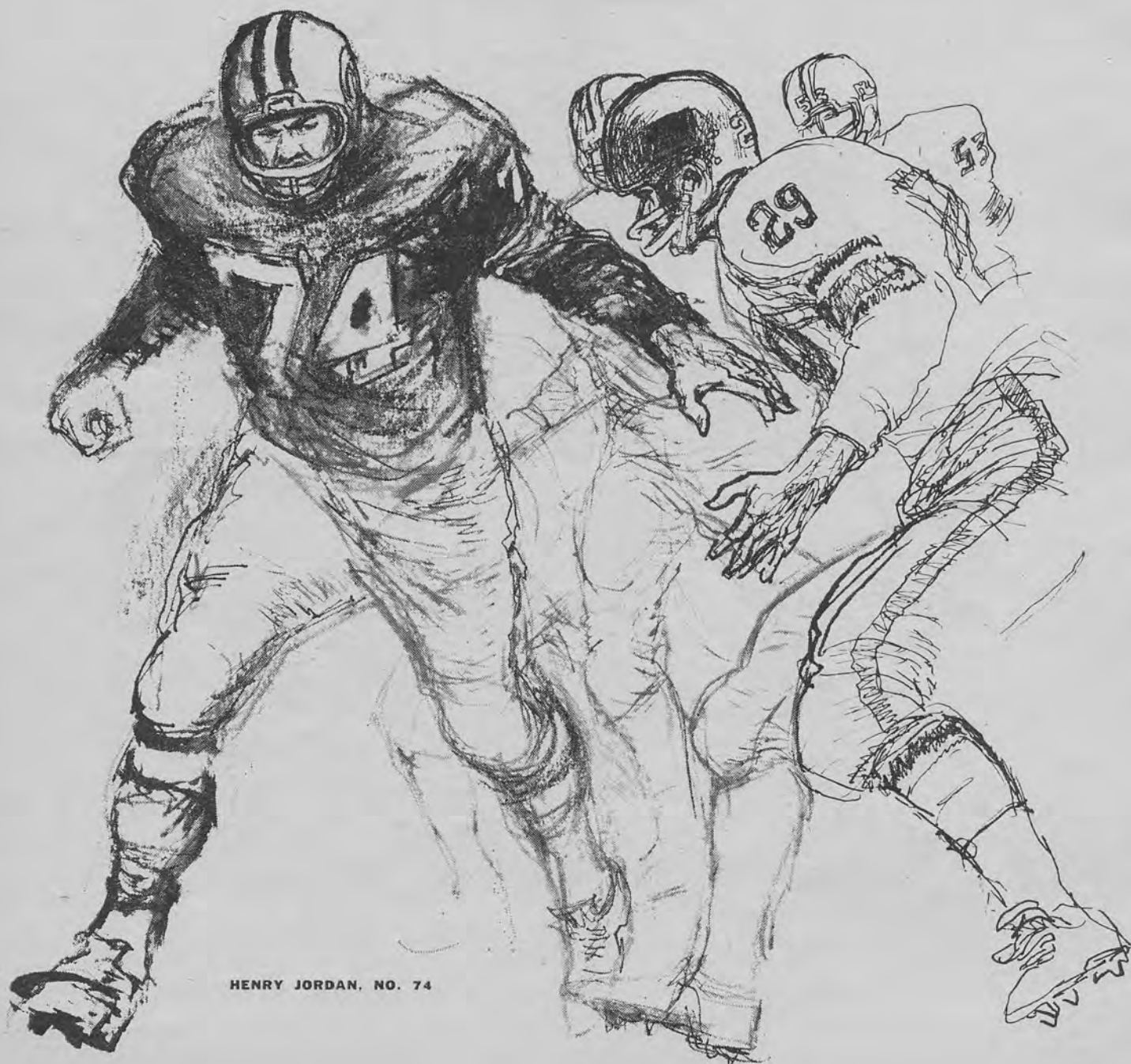
The Giants have fine ends in Aaron Thomas, Joe Morrison and Del Shofner, plus Homer Jones, Bob Crespino, Joe Walton and Roger Reynolds. But the offensive line has numerous question marks—can Rosey Brown go another year, can center Greg Larson come back from serious knee surgery, can guard Darrell Dess' back hold up, can Roger Anderson develop as a tackle? The young backs are of course depending on these questions being answered affirmatively.

The defense should be better. Tackles John LoVetere, John Contoulis and Tony DiMidio must recover from knee operations. Katcavage and Andy Stynchula are fine ends. The linebackers are adequate and the secondary, led by Erich Barnes, Dick Lynch and Patton, will be bolstered by several highly regarded rookies, including sprinter Henry Carr of Arizona State. But a team bolstered by rookies will be by definition mistake-prone, and Giant prospects are bleak indeed.



JIM KATCAVAGE, NO. 75

GREEN BAY PACKERS



HENRY JORDAN, NO. 74

Despite an unsettled offensive line and possible pass-receiving problems, the Packers look like winners once again. Chandler could be the man to boot them home

IT SEEMS HARD TO believe that an NFL team can give up no more than 27 points in any game and still win only eight of 14. But this was the story of the '64 Packers—a team with pro football's No. 1 defense and an offense that fell fatally short in crucial moments. To be more specific about that offense, it was Paul Hornung's kicking that fell short—or wide. Of 38 field-goal tries, he made just 12. In all fairness to Paul, however, this phase of his comeback from his year's suspension was hindered by a pinched neck nerve.

One big reason we're picking the Packers to regain the Western title they last won in '62 is the acquisition of placekicker Don Chandler. Hornung will be free to run, pass and catch passes—all of which he can do with superstar flair. And Chandler's presence could mean the winning of ballgames the Packers should have won last year.

But the biggest reason we have to go with Green Bay is its marvelous defense, which led the NFL in eight categories in 1964. The front four, the linebackers and the secondary are all superior units with no real weaknesses. They boast four All-Pros—end Willie Davis, tackle Henry Jordan, middle linebacker Ray Nitschke and safety Willie Wood. The Packers were by far the best team defending against a pass and their pass rush was aided in large part by the rapid progress made by end Lionel Aldridge and tackle Ron Kostelnik. At linebacker the Packers are strong enough that they could afford to trade away Dan Currie. The knowledge that Dave Robinson's knee operation was successful made the trade easier. Lee Roy Caffey has the other corner linebacker spot. The only knock on the defensive backfield is the aging of cornerback Jesse Whittenton and safety Hank Gremminger. Both are 31, but still seem a couple of years away from retirement. Cornerback Herb Adderley is another star among many stars on the defensive team. Adderley led the club in kickoff returns with 508 yards and the Packers led the league in that category. Defensive back Tom Brown had a fine rookie year. The punter is Jerry Norton.

Like last year, the offense holds the key to the Packers' title chances, but the worry isn't so much with the placekicking as it is with the line and pass-receiving. Both are unsettled. Last season Bob Skoronski didn't make it at center as hoped, so he went back to tackle and this in turn forced All-Pro tackle Forrest Gregg to guard. Meanwhile rookie Ken Bowman became the center and had some problems. Dan Grimm was the other guard and Norm Masters the other tackle. This could be the way they'll line up again this year, although the return of guards Jerry Kramer and Fred "Fuzzy" Thurston—both out with injuries—could change things.

Pass-receiving is problematical due to tight end Ron Kramer's refusal to play with the Packers because of personal reasons. And at age 33, split end Max McGee has slowed down noticeably. Flanker Boyd Dowler—Green Bay's leading receiver last year with 45 catches for 623 yards—may move to tight end if young Marv Fleming can't do the job. Currie was dealt to LA for split end Carroll Dale, who can run the 100 in less than ten flat.

Fortunately for the Packers, some of the pass-receiving slack is taken up by fullback Jim Taylor (second behind Dowler with 38 catches), halfback Tom Moore (17) and Hornung (9). And, of course, these are fellows who can run to daylight all day long. Taylor comes off his fifth straight year with over 1000 yards gained rushing—an NFL record. Hornung and Moore each rushed 103 times last year for a combined total of 765. No. 3 halfback Elijah Pitts would be a starter on several NFL teams. As for passing, underrated quarterback Bart Starr continues to go to the air sparingly—and successfully. He ranked No. 1 last season and had only four passes intercepted.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Von Brocklin's no-nonsense methods are paying off. He has built a club capable of coming within a shade of a title in this its fifth year

THERE'S A STRONG TEMPTATION to pick the Vikings first this year, if for no other reason than their constant and spectacular progress. Beginning with the year of their birth—1961—the Vikings have shot steadily upward: from the basement the first year to a second-place tie last season. In 1964 the Vikings ranked first in the NFL in passing, second in rushing and fourth in scoring. And the defense has nearly kept pace. Last season it gave up 104 less points than the previous year.

There are, however, just enough question marks to indicate that coach Norm Van Brocklin's club is still a year away from a title. Lack of depth is a major problem. On defense the secondary will have to protect better against the "bomb." And, despite their league-leading passing, the Vikings' flankers and ends had trouble getting free downfield and quarterback Fran Tarkenton had to bail out by throwing to his running backs—or by eating the ball. Tarkenton's scrambling—exciting though it may be—cost the Vikings more lost-yardage while attempting to pass than any team except Dallas last year.

You won't hear Van Brocklin knocking his quarterback, however, and for good reason. The team's regular quarterback since its beginning, Fran averaged a gain of 8.19 yards per pass and ranked second overall in NFL passing statistics. Ron VanderKelen, and possibly rookie Bob Berry, will be primed as replacements.

When halfback Tommy Mason is out—as he was for several games last year with an elbow injury—the Viking attack can sputter severely. When Mason is in top form he's the league's best halfback and a likely prospect to gain over 1000 yards rushing. His backup men will be Ted Dean, whose effectiveness after an auto accident is doubtful, and rookie Lance Rentzel. Based on the '64 performance of fullback Bill Brown, the Vikings would suffer just as much from his absence as Mason's. The NFL's most improved player last year, Brown ranked fourth in rushing with 866 yards. And he and Mason were a fearsome pass-catching duo, combining for 94 receptions.

The acquisition of flanker Jim "Red" Phillips from the Rams should help the Vikings' receiving considerably. Minnesota suffered from lack of receiving depth in '64 when split end Paul Flatley missed four games and rookie Bob Lacey got off to a late start because of a knee operation. Flatley still caught 28 passes, to prove why he was rookie-of-the-year in '63. Temperamental Hal Bedsole caught five touchdown passes at tight end last year as a rookie and could be a great one. Holdover Tom Hall will battle Phillips for the flanker job and Jerry Reichow at tight end gives the Vikings still further support.

In the interior line Larry Bowie is set at right guard while the left spot could belong to Milt Sunde or Ken Byers—both having started sometime during the '64 season. Archie Sutton or Larry Kramer, two rookie All-Americans, could oust the guard veterans, though



TOMMY MASON, NO. 20

Sutton may also get a shot at tackle. Sure to be one regular tackle is Grady Alderman, who makes up for lack of size with mental alertness. Errol Linden should be the other tackle. At center is Mick Tingelhoff, who bloomed as an All-Pro in his third year.

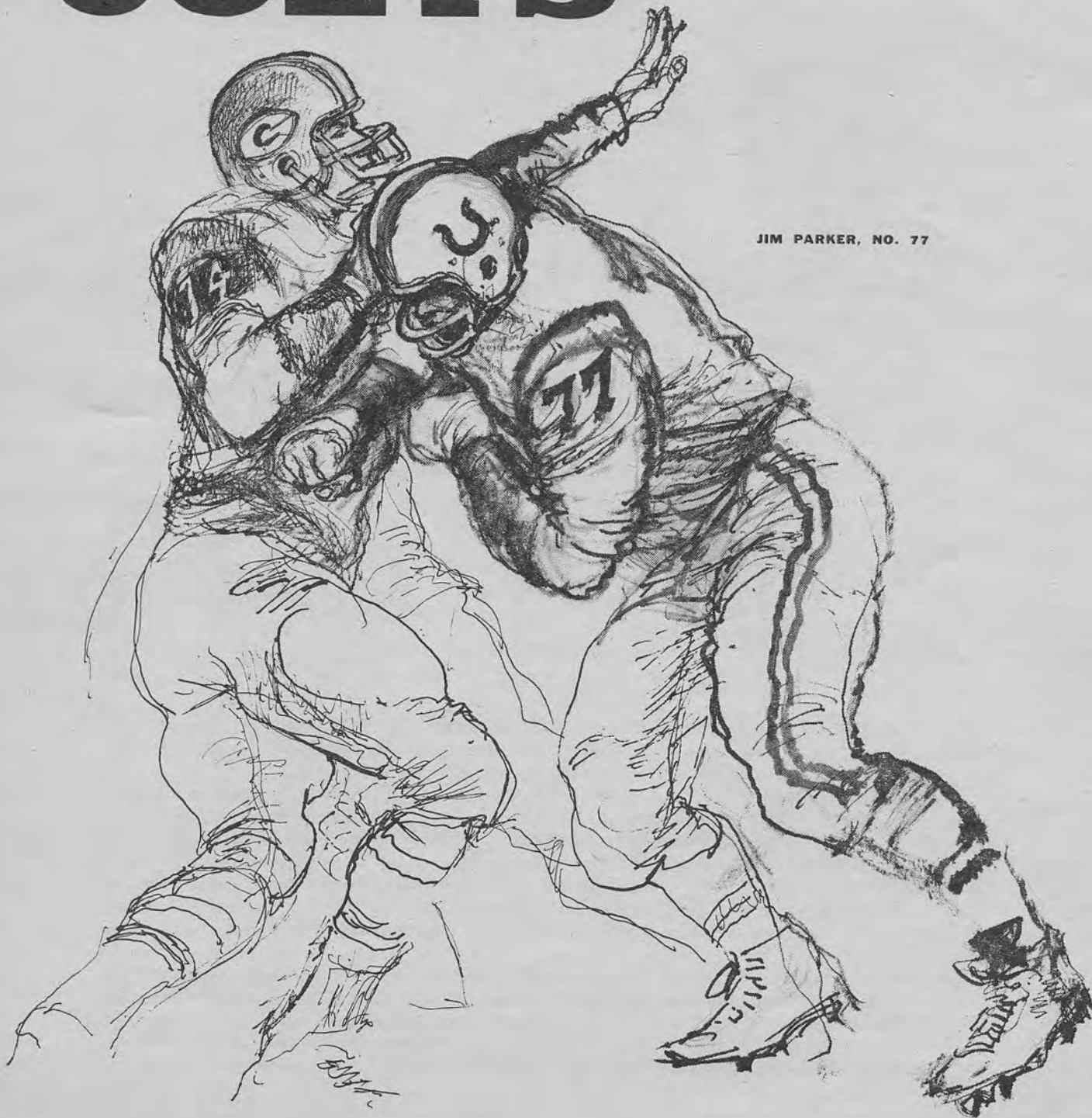
In the defensive line, Minnesota is counting on soph Carl Eller to help provide a better pass rush, along with running mate, Jim "Wrong-Way" Marshall. Both are fast, as is a newly-acquired reserve Bob Taylor. Veterans Jim Prestel and Paul Dickson return at tackle, backed up by Gary Larsen. The front line is supported by a strong group of linebackers. Middlebacker Rip Hawkins should have been an All-Pro, says Van Brocklin. Roy Winston also had a good year on the left side and Bill Jobko was enjoying his finest pro season out of seven until he broke his arm late in the year. His replacement, Bill Swain, held up well.

Lee Calland's broken arm in the '63 opener was a big blow to the secondary; George Rose took over the cornerback spot and had typical rookie problems. Ed Sharockman is the other cornerback. Rose may be shifted to safety to back up Karl Kassulke and Larry Vargo.

The Vikings have the luxury of two kickers. Bobby Walden, the punter, led the NFL as a rookie with a 46.4 average. And placekicker Fred Cox made 21 of 33 field goal attempts.

BALTIMORE COLTS

JIM PARKER, NO. 77



It's improbable that Baltimore can match its dazzling offense of '64. And this time Gino Marchetti has retired for good, which isn't at all to the Colts' good

IN THE WESTERN CONFERENCE, titles aren't won so much on expected assets as they are on unexpected miracles. Just ask the Colts. It was a season when seemingly washed-up halfback Lenny Moore scored 20 touchdowns to set an NFL record. Johnny Unitas had only six passes intercepted and averaged 9.26 yards per completion. Defensive end Gino Marchetti postponed retirement at the last minute and, at age 36, proved he was still the best in the business. And the Colts had few key injuries.

This conference is so tight that the winner can drop to the bottom in one season—witness the Bears—if the miracles don't repeat. Baltimore isn't going to plunge that far—its offense is still too high-powered—but it is likely to slip as low as third. Defense could be the big reason. Marchetti has quit for good this time and he's joined by middle linebacker Bill Pellington. No one on the Colt roster (and darned few in the league) can replace them adequately. Last year they sparked a defensive unit that made the opposing quarterback eat the ball 57 times for an aggregate loss of 489 yards.

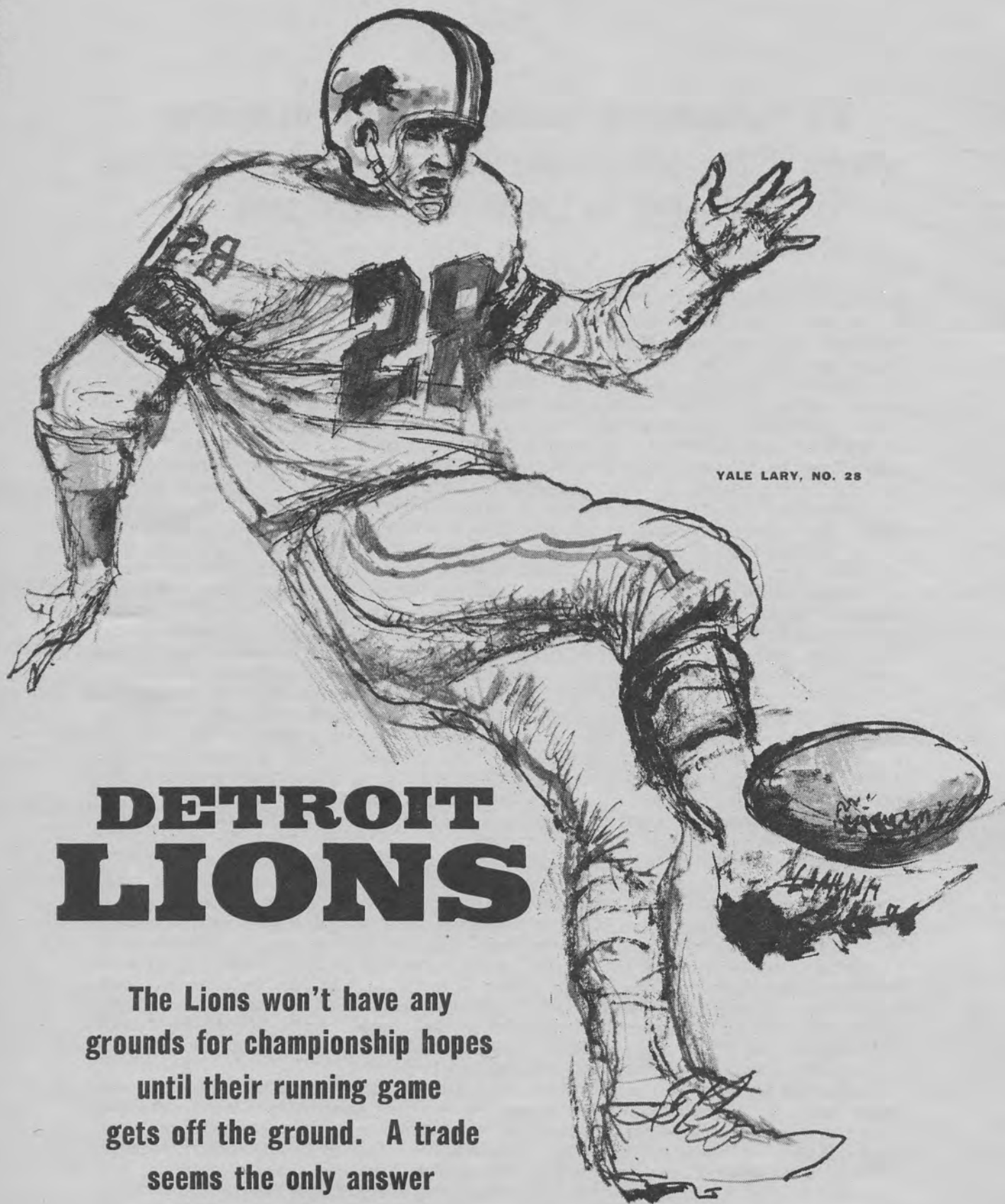
Taking over for Marchetti will be Lou Michaels, whose contributions last year were mainly as a place-kicker. Second-year man Ted Davis will get first shot at Pellington's job. Elsewhere in the defense, underrated Ordell Braase is at right end, with Fred Miller (a lightweight at 245) at one tackle and Guy Reese and Billy Ray Smith alternating at the other tackle. Smith is superior in pass-rushing. The linebacking, except for eight-year veteran Don Shinnick on the right side, will be young and that's one big reason for doubting the Colt defense. Rookie Mike Curtis is being counted on to battle Davis for the middle spot and third-year man John Campbell, acquired from Minnesota, will battle with Steve Stonebreaker, recovering from knee surgery, for the left-side position.

No one on the Colts is going to miss Marchetti and Pellington more than the secondary. It will be interesting to see if left cornerback Bobby Boyd, who had a knee operation, can maintain his '64 All-Pro standards, which included nine interceptions. Lenny Lyles, on the right side, also comes off a surprisingly strong year and so do safeties Jim Welch and Jerry Logan. Wendell Harris is the prime reserve and the team's top punt-returner.

Last year quarterback Unitas could afford to use the pass sparingly because the Colts seldom got behind. Johnny threw fewer passes than in any season since '58, a title year. The big reason, however, that Unitas' passing became a supporting weapon rather than a primary one was the quality of the running attack. And even if Moore can't repeat his '64 performance in this his tenth season, coach Don Shula is fortunate to have as much high-grade depth at running back as any coach in the league. Tom Matte is a versatile backup man for Moore and fullbacks Tony Lorick, Jerry Hill and Joe Don Looney, are all fine runners and excellent blockers. Lorick, the regular, is the fastest and had a brilliant rookie year, gaining 513 yards in 100 carries. And this was despite troublesome tonsils which caused him to lose weight. Looney, who shares the punting with Tom Gilburg, may be traded if he continues to give the Colts discipline problems.

The biggest injury the Colts had all last year still wasn't enough to keep the victim out of the lineup. Tight end John Mackey played with a severe charley-horse which cut down his great speed on deep passes. His recovery will take some of the pressure off split end Raymond Berry and flanker Jimmy Orr, still two of the best after 17 combined years in the NFL. Alex Hawkins should continue to prove invaluable as special units captain.

Aside from Bob Vogel, the interior line is beginning to age. Tackle George Preas, center Dick Szymanski and guards Jim Parker, an All-Pro, and Alex Sandusky are all over 30.



YALE LARY, NO. 28

DETROIT LIONS

The Lions won't have any grounds for championship hopes until their running game gets off the ground. A trade seems the only answer

ROOKIE COACH Harry Gilmer is determined to give the Lions what his predecessor couldn't—a running game. His chances rely mainly on making a major trade. Until then, Gilmer will have to make do with two journeymen halfbacks and an unfulfilled fullback.

With a nucleus like that, the Lions can hardly expect to improve their 7-5-2 record of last year. In fact, they can thank their defensive stars that they didn't do worse than that. Detroit's defense wasn't quite what it had been in the past—due to key injuries, old age and rookies—but it still won a couple of ballgames. With former All-Pros Joe Schmidt and Dick “Night Train” Lane recovered from injuries, the defense could return to its top-flight level.

The defense, however, can make tackles until they're black and blue in the face and it still won't do much good unless the runners produce. Gilmer's halfbacks are Dan Lewis, an inconsistent performer, and Tom Watkins, who's better in spot situations. Rookie help will come from two little-known small-college men—Earl Hawkins (Emory & Henry), and Jim Kearney (Prairie View). Tom Vaughn of Iowa State is a fast, shifty runner, but the Lions hope to use him in the defensive backfield.

Fullback Nick Pietrosante returns for his seventh pro season after setting an all-time Detroit rushing record last year by adding 536 yards. Nick is a bruising runner and a fine blocker, but Gilmer would like to see him try and head for the open spaces more often. Rookie Tom Nowatzke (Indiana) should move to the No. 2 spot.

Except for Nowatzke, the Lions' No. 1 draft choice, the club didn't seem to draft for running backs, which is hard to understand. Detroit did select a quarterback in an early round—Tom Myers of Northwestern, a No. 4 choice—in the hope that someday it might develop a passer to satisfy the Bobby Layne-spoiled fans. Right now it's still Milt Plum and Earl Morrall. With Morrall out much of the season with a shoulder injury, Plum had the job mostly to himself. He responded well in the last half of the season, despite a banged-up elbow, and finished No. 5 in the NFL passing standings.

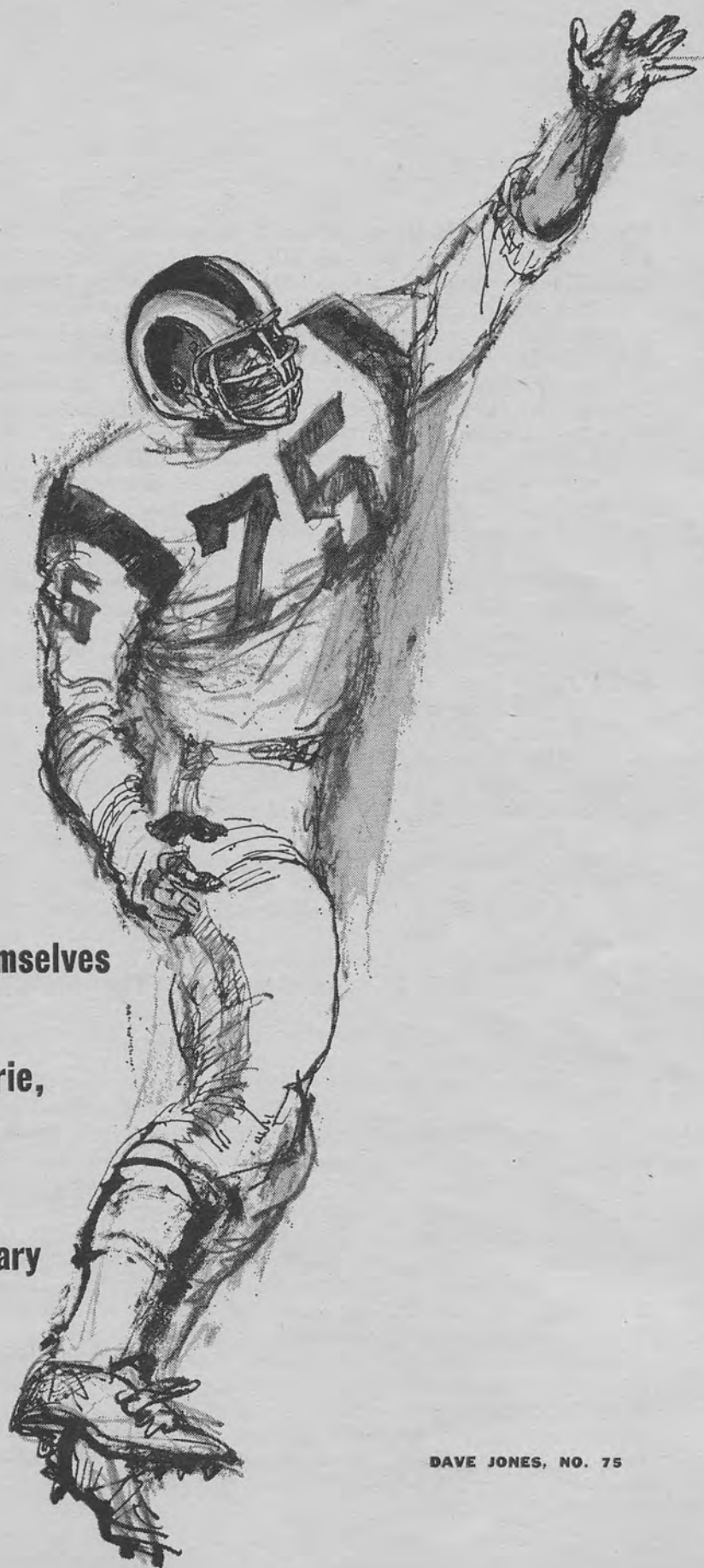
When it comes to offense the one thing Detroit doesn't have to worry about is its receivers. With flanker Terry Barr (57 catches), split end Gail Cogdill (45) and tight end Jim Gibbons (45), the Lions had the best-balanced pass-catching trio in the NFL. And the depth here is impressive—veterans Pat Studstill and Hugh McInnis and well-regarded rookies John Flynn and John Hilton. The interior line, too, is a Lion strongpoint. Tackles J.D. Smith and Daryl Sanders and All-Pro guard John Gordy and John Gonzaga give Detroit a big, experienced line and leave little to be desired. Centers Bob Whitlow and Bob Scholtz are rated on a par.

The defensive line presents more of a problem. Ends Darris McCord and Sam Williams are both past 31; so is Bill Quinlan, and he didn't even get invited back. The big hope for one end spot is 6-4, 225-pound Jerry Rush, No. 2 draft choice from Michigan State. He has the quickness for pass rushing but may also have his pass-blocking talents utilized at offensive tackle. Alex Karras and Roger Brown hold forth at defensive tackle, making that the strongest department on the club.

If middle-linebacker Joe Schmidt has regained his effectiveness following his shoulder separation, then the Lions can be thankful he reconsidered his retirement by signing a two-year contract. His presence is invaluable, even to a highly capable linebacking corps that includes Wayne Walker (who also does the kicking), Dennis Gaubatz, Ernie Clark, Monte Lee and Wally Hilgenberg.

The secondary is a curious blend of youngsters and fellows on the verge of retirement. Lane wants to return to left cornerback but the 13-year veteran will have to battle Bobby Thompson, who filled in well last year as a rookie. At left safety Bruce Maher appears set and on the right side are Pro-Bowl choices Dick LeBeau, cornerback, and Yale Lary, safety. Lary, 34, appears to have postponed his retirement another year. The Lions are fortunate because he was still the NFL's second leading punter last season.

The Rams helped themselves a great deal with two great deals (Currie, McDonald). But the trading stopped short—of the secondary



DAVE JONES, NO. 75

LOS ANGELES RAMS

COACH HARLAND SVARE'S CLUB defied all predictability last year. The rap against its defensive front four is inconsistency, but suddenly this quartet of monsters draws everyone's admiration by giving up less less yardage on the ground than any other defense. The Rams' passing attack is expected to be weak and quarterback Roman Gabriel is injured at the start of the season. So the Rams unveil an unsung but poised rookie passer in Bill Munson and a speedy flanker from Catawba College named Bucky Pope and PRESTO!—touchdowns. The surprises go on. Marlin McKeever, a linebacker for most of four years, starts making like a tight end and catches 41 passes to lead the club. Halfback Ben Wilson postpones dental school, and leads LA in rushing (553 yards).

There is one other surprise, and this one isn't so good. After compiling a fine 5-3-1 record, the Rams don't win another game, as the offense dies and the defense plays dead.

You can find weaknesses in nearly every area on the Rams, but at least the most glaring weakness has been patched. That would be linebacker. The Rams obtained Dan Currie from Green Bay in exchange for split end Carroll Dale. Currie will be a big help flanking Mike "Tarzan" Henry. And on the other side could be Ed Holler, obtained from Pittsburgh for center Art Hunter. Of the regulars last year, Cliff Livingston is about through and Andy Von Sonn had problems as a rookie.

Much of the Rams' late-season collapse was due not only to weak linebacking but a very green secondary. The Rams tried to get by with three rookies. It'll be up to right safety Eddie Meador (also defensive captain) to hold the young unit together. Jerry Richardson and Aaron Martin get another shot at the cornerback spots and Frank Budka will most likely be at left safety, backed up by three-year veteran Bobby Smith.

As long as none of the front four regulars get hurt, the Rams will again have a forward wall to rival any. With All-Pros Dave (Deacon) Jones, end, and Merlin Olsen, tackle, on the left side, it must be a joy to play left linebacker behind them. On the right side Lamar Lundy continued to gain consistency at end and Roosevelt Grier didn't miss a game. Replacements are Joe Krupa and rookies Ken Henson and Bob Oetting.

At quarterback LA is set to go with the hot man, or uninjured man, whichever the case. Munson had as fine a year as you can expect from a rookie, throwing nine touchdown passes. Gabriel's immobility (not helped by his knee injury) remains a problem.

The biggest boost to the passing attack was the acquisition of Tommy McDonald from Dallas, who'll take Dale's place at split end. Tommy should be good for 40-plus catches. If Pope can prove as effective on short patterns as he was on the long ones last year, the Rams will have a versatile group of receivers. Jack Snow (Notre Dame) heads the rookies.

Dick Bass was injured part of the year but his replacement, rookie Les Josephson, was close to sensational. Les averaged 4.7 yards a carry and blocked like a tackle. At halfback Wilson will be backed up by Terry Baker and rookie Clancy Williams.

The Rams' offensive line is maturing rapidly. Guard Joe Seibelli was the club's most improved player in '64, and tackle Joe Carollo never stops getting better. Other guards include Don Chuy and Roger Davis (obtained from the Bears) and a fixture at tackle is Frank Varrichione. Charlie Cowan is the swingman and at center are Ken Iman and and Joe Wendryhoski. Danny Villanueva went to the Cowboys for McDonald. Bruce Gossett made him expendable. A '64 free agent, Gossett made 18 of 24 field-goal attempts.

CHICAGO BEARS

Halas drafted big names and small ballcarriers. It's a gamble, but he must do something with his impotent offense

PRIOR TO THE '64 SEASON it was predicted that the Bears would pay for their poor overall offense. Indeed they did. The defending NFL champions were touch-down-less in three games and won just five. It was also predicted that the rest of the league would catch up with the new defense the Bears had installed in '63. Chicago ended up yielding 379 points, so that prediction didn't seem far off, either.

Unfortunately, the Bears had approximately two and a half times the amount of expected injuries and they meant such key losses as these: Center Mike Pyle (ankle, out five games); corner linebacker Larry Morris (knee, five games plus); end-linebacker Bob Kilcullen (rib separation, two); middle linebacker Bill George (knee, six); defensive end Doug Atkins (groin, four).

So much for the injuries, which are, if anything an excuse only for the defense. The Bears' ground game had little excuse except its own ineptness. Until Jon Arnett got untracked at midseason, the ballcarriers did absolutely nothing. Arnett finished with 400 yards, Ronnie Bull 320.

Owner-coach George Halas drafted three big-name college backs—halfbacks Gale Sayers (Kansas) and Dick Gordon (Michigan State) and fullback Pat Crain (Clemson). He also signed free-agent fullback Brian Piccolo (Wake Forest). Crain is the heaviest at 215, which may be the big problem with all four—too small as running backs.

The Bears put most of their offensive eggs last year in two baskets—the baskets formed by the outstretched arms of flanker Johnny Morris and tight end Mike Ditka. They ranked one-two in NFL pass-receiving—Morris setting an all-time NFL record with 93 catches, Ditka receiving 75. They need a running attack and a faster split end than Rich Kretling to keep the pressure off. Rookie Jimmy Jones (Wisconsin) could be the man to team with them. At quarterback the Bears seem content to go with their two aging journeymen—Billy Wade and Rudy Bukich.

Improved blocking in the offensive line is one of the Bears' big goals. They hope to get it from guards Mike Rabold, Ted Karras, Jim Cadile and Palmer Pyle and tackles Bob Wetoska, George Burman, Riley Mattson and Herman Lee. Kent Francisco is the best rookie here, if you don't count Dick Butkus. Illinois' great All-America could spell Mike Pyle at center, and so could Fred Hageman. Most likely, though, Butkus will be at linebacker where he and Mike Reilly and Roger Leclerc can begin taking over for the aging Morris, George and Joe Fortunato.

Up front, rookie Dick Evey filled in well at defensive end in '64. And if Atkins is injury-free, he'll still be one of the best on the outside. Defensive tackles are Stan Jones, John Johnson and Earl Leggett. The Bears' secondary—safeties Roosevelt Taylor and Richie Pettibon and cornerbacks Bennie McRae and Dave Whitsell—disappointed in '64.

JOHNNY MORRIS, NO. 47



Two newly acquired setbacks could make a mild difference



BERNIE CASEY, NO. 30

INSTEAD OF PICKING THE 49ers dead last, let's say they'll climb to a tie for sixth after two straight seventh-place finishes. Sure we're hedging, but the 49ers deserve the benefit of the doubt for three reasons: 1) the conference's balance; 2) the 49ers' 100 percent improvement in its won-lost record last year (from 2-12 to 4-10) despite key injuries and a ridiculous ground attack; 3) fortification of a couple of weak spots.

Every time quarterbacks John Brodie and George Mira called a runner's signal last year, it sounded suspiciously like SOS. The 49ers were so feeble on the ground that free-agent rookie Dave Kopay was the leader with 271 yards. If halfback John David Crow is free from last season's knee injuries, then the trade the 49ers made for their great kickoff-returner, Abe Woodson, could be profitable.

There are plenty of fullback candidates, with rookie Ken Willard of North Carolina the one to put your money on. J.D. Smith (injured much of '64), Mike Lind led the team in scoring) and Gary Lewis (started last three games) all will have to hustle for a job.

More consistent passing will help make the running game more effective, too, and there's no reason the 49ers shouldn't have stronger passing. Their receivers—headed by flanker Bernie Casey (58 receptions), tight end Monty Stickles (40) and second-year man Dave

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS



Parks (36)—are excellent. And the 49ers have yet to unveil Vern Burke, the record-setting All-America from Oregon State who was injured all his rookie year. At quarterback Brodie and Mira will be battling each other hard for the regular spot.

There's a lot of experience in the offensive line, with guard Leon Donohue—in his fourth year—the relative newcomer. John Thomas is the other guard, Bruce Bosley is at center and the tackles are Bob St. Clair and Len Rohde. These four total 34 years as pros.

In the defensive backfield Woodson's spot at cornerback will be taken by rookie George Donnelly, who, along with Willard, was a first-round choice. He'll join an already young group headed by Kermit Alexander at safety and Jim Johnson at left corner. There are a couple of battles at linebacker: Mike Dowdle won't play unless he gets a substantial contract. And at left linebacker, Bill Cooper, out with a knee injury in '64, has to fight replacement Dave Wilcox for a spot. Jack Chapple (Stanford) is a well-regarded rookie and Ed Pine and Matt Hazletine are 49er linebackers of long standing. Toughest man up front is Charlie Krueger, 254-pound left tackle. His running mate is Roland Lakes and the ends are Clark Miller and Dan Colchico.

NFL

National Football League Schedule

SEPTEMBER 19 SUNDAY

Chicago at San Francisco
Cleveland at Washington
Green Bay at Pittsburgh
Los Angeles at Detroit
Minnesota at Baltimore
New York at Dallas
St. Louis at Philadelphia

SEPTEMBER 25 SATURDAY

Chicago at Los Angeles

SEPTEMBER 26 SUNDAY

Baltimore vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee
Detroit at Minnesota
New York at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at San Francisco
St. Louis at Cleveland
Washington at Dallas

OCTOBER 3 SUNDAY

Chicago at Green Bay
Cleveland at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Los Angeles
New York at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at Baltimore
Washington at Detroit

OCTOBER 4 MONDAY

Dallas at St. Louis

OCTOBER 9 SATURDAY

Pittsburgh at Cleveland

OCTOBER 10 SUNDAY

Detroit at Baltimore
Los Angeles at Chicago
New York at Minnesota
Philadelphia at Dallas
St. Louis at Washington
San Francisco at Green Bay

OCTOBER 17 SUNDAY

Baltimore at Washington
Chicago at Minnesota
Dallas at Cleveland
Green Bay at Detroit
Philadelphia at New York

St. Louis at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at Los Angeles

OCTOBER 24 SUNDAY

Cleveland at New York
Dallas vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee
Detroit at Chicago
Los Angeles at Baltimore
Minnesota at San Francisco
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
Washington at St. Louis

OCTOBER 31 SUNDAY

Baltimore at San Francisco
Dallas at Pittsburgh
Detroit at Los Angeles
Green Bay at Chicago
Minnesota at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Washington
St. Louis at New York

NOVEMBER 7 SUNDAY

Baltimore at Chicago
Detroit at Green Bay
Los Angeles at Minnesota
Philadelphia at Cleveland
Pittsburgh at St. Louis
San Francisco at Dallas
Washington at New York

NOVEMBER 14 SUNDAY

Baltimore at Minnesota
Los Angeles vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee
New York at Cleveland
Pittsburgh at Dallas
St. Louis at Chicago
San Francisco at Detroit
Washington at Philadelphia

NOVEMBER 21 SUNDAY

Chicago at Detroit
Cleveland at Dallas
Green Bay at Minnesota
Los Angeles at San Francisco
New York at St. Louis
Philadelphia at Baltimore
Washington at Pittsburgh

NOVEMBER 25 THURSDAY (Thanksgiving Day)

Baltimore at Detroit

NOVEMBER 28 SUNDAY

Chicago at New York
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Dallas at Washington
Green Bay at Los Angeles
Philadelphia at St. Louis
San Francisco at Minnesota

DECEMBER 5 SUNDAY

Chicago at Baltimore
Dallas at Philadelphia
Detroit at San Francisco
Los Angeles at St. Louis
Minnesota at Green Bay
Pittsburgh at New York
Washington at Cleveland

DECEMBER 11 SATURDAY

St. Louis at Dallas

DECEMBER 12 SUNDAY

Cleveland at Los Angeles
Green Bay at Baltimore
Minnesota at Detroit
New York at Washington
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at Chicago

DECEMBER 18 SATURDAY

Baltimore at Los Angeles

DECEMBER 19 SUNDAY

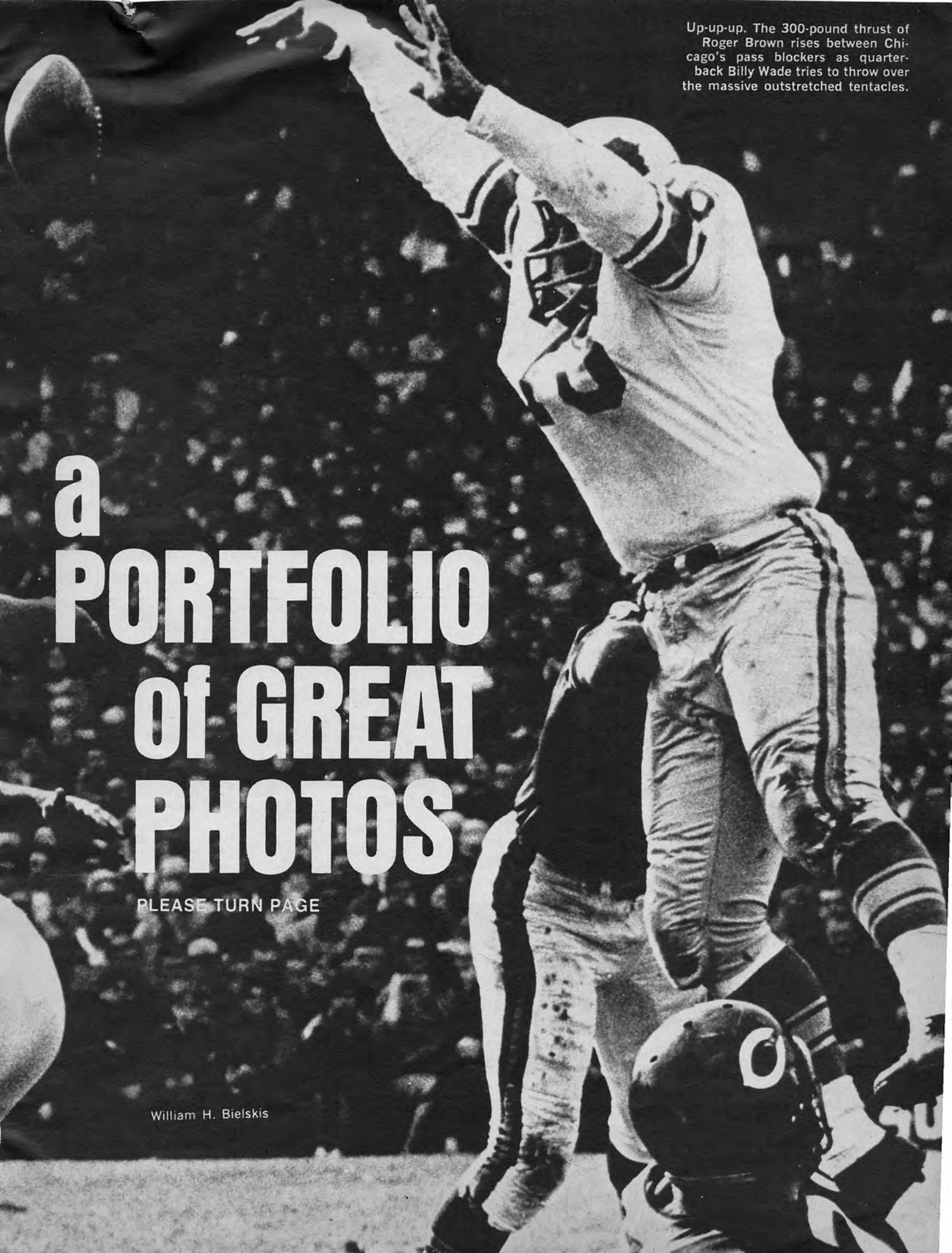
Cleveland at St. Louis
Dallas at New York
Detroit at Philadelphia
Green Bay at San Francisco
Minnesota at Chicago
Pittsburgh at Washington

JANUARY 2, 1966 SUNDAY

Championship Game in Home City of Western Conference Champion

• Sunday, January 9, 1966
Playoff Bowl at Miami, Fla.

Sunday, January 16, 1966
Pro Bowl at Los Angeles



Up-up-up. The 300-pound thrust of Roger Brown rises between Chicago's pass blockers as quarterback Billy Wade tries to throw over the massive outstretched tentacles.

a PORTFOLIO of GREAT PHOTOS

PLEASE TURN PAGE

William H. Bielskis

These photos illustrate the reason for pro football's tremendous popularity.



Rich Clarkson

In a symphony of motion, Tony Romeo of the Boston Patriots, top, grabs a pass and stomps over Kansas City defender Bobby Hunt. No. 86 at right is Gary Collins of the Cleveland Browns, but the pass intended for him is picked off instead by St. Louis Cardinals defender Larry Wilson, who leaps high and mighty.



Malcolm Emmons

They sum it all up—the power and the action and the surge of The Game

Bill Jerome

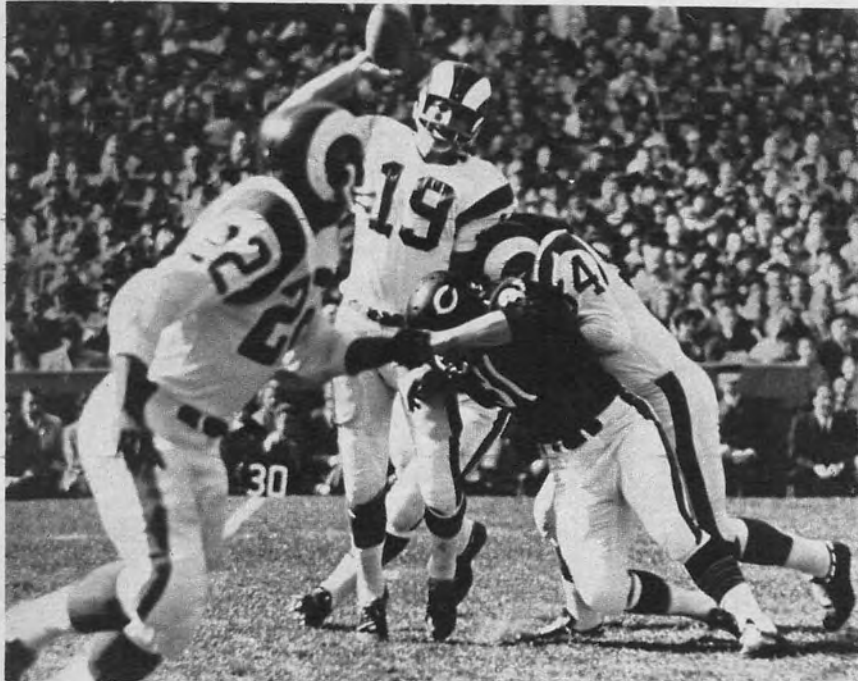


Not always is the drama of pro football concentrated after the snap of the ball. Above, Myron Pottios, middle linebacker of the Pittsburgh Steelers, looks over the enemy offense and then calls the formation. Below, No. 76, friendly Roosevelt Grier lunges at Green Bay quarterback Bart Starr, but too late. Bart has already thrown the ball, and get out of my eye, Rosey.

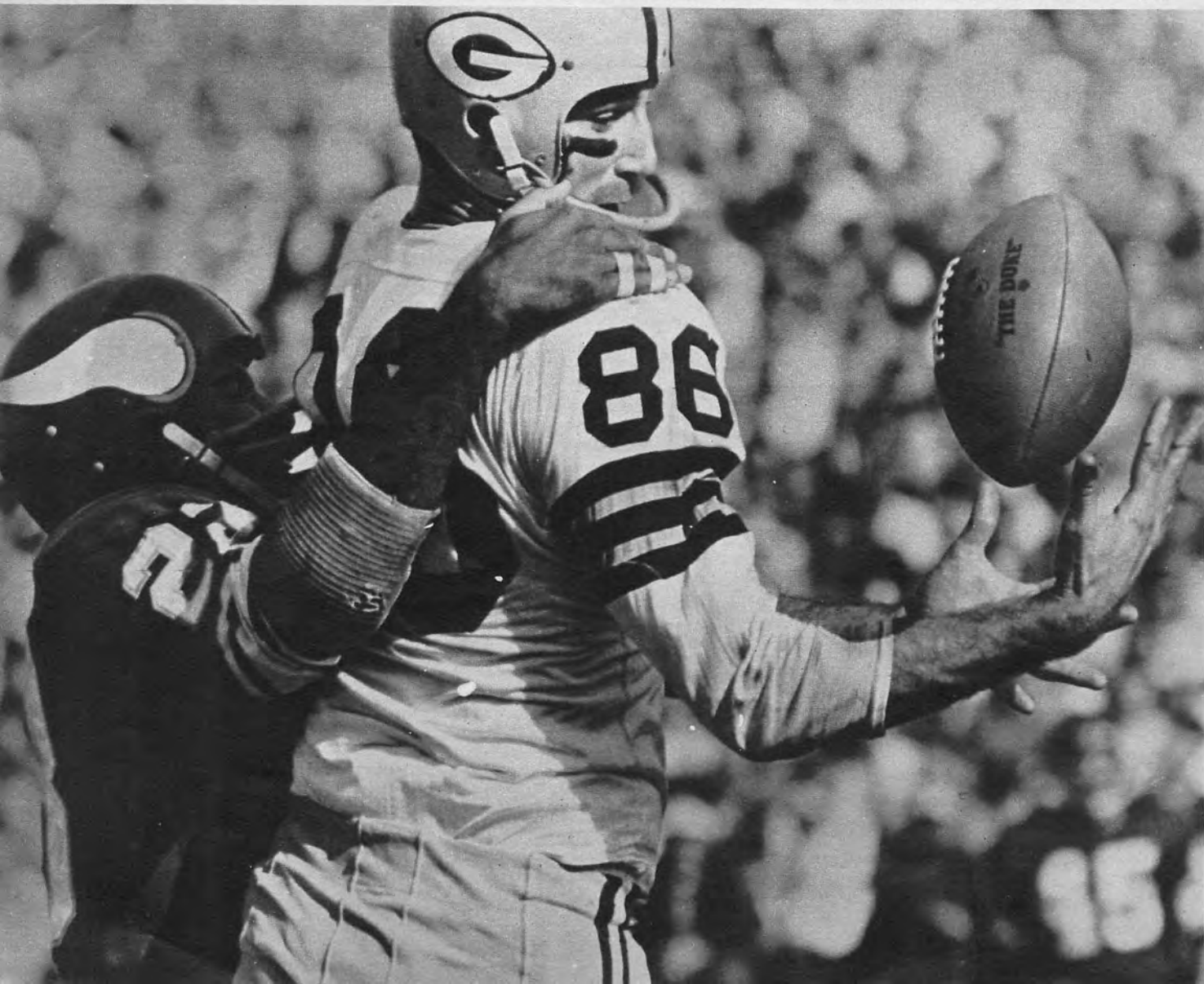


Vernon J. Biever

Malcolm Emmons



The way to complete a short look-in pass, left. Bear linebacker Larry Morris is held off just long enough for Bill Munson to hit Dick Bass. Below, the burden is on the pass-receiver, Boyd Dowler of the Packers. With a Viking defender hanging on his back, Dowler still manages to envelop the ball, clasp it to his gut.

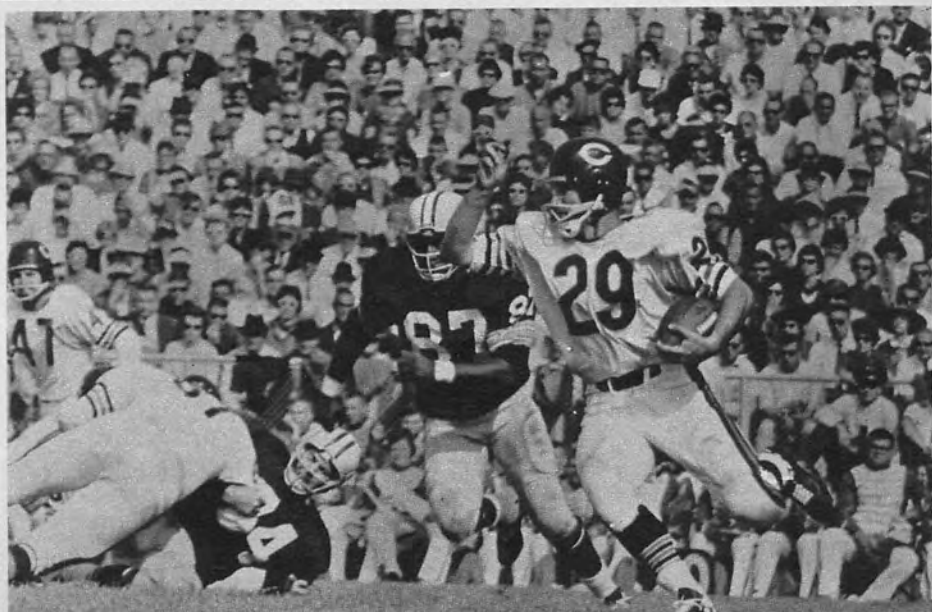


Vernon J. Biever



Rich Clarkson

You think Len Dawson is going to get off this pass, with Kansas City defender John McGeever bearing down on him? He does. But, below, it's a real chase between Bear ballcarrier Ronnie Bull and Green Bay pursuer Willie Davis. Willie eventually catches Bull, but not before Ronnie picks up yardage for a big first down.



Don Sparks



Darryl Norenberg

Vernon J. Biever

Call it poetry in motion, call it combat, call it whatever you want, but there is nothing more basic in pro football than the one-on-one situation, man against man. Here, above, it is Raymond Berry leaping for a Johnny Unitas pass and Carver Shannon now just trying to stop the man. At right, it is a brilliant one-handed catch by Jim Gibbons of the Lions, with Bear defender Richie Petitbon making the necessary face-saving tackle.



Vernon J. Biever



The drama of pro football comes from a variety of situations. At right, it is simply the drama of two men—Dick Lynch, No. 22, and John LoVotere, No. 76, trying to pull down one man, J.W. Lockett. Below, it is the field-goal attempt, the Colts trying it and the Packer defenders, particularly vaulting No. 24, Willie Wood, trying to stop it.



Martin Blumenthal



Pro Football Almanac Selects

*Take eight top NFLers,
add three AFLers and shake
well. The result—
a power-potent offensive unit*

THE 1965 ALL-PRO TEAM

OFFENSE



Bob Vogel, starting his third year, established himself in '64 at offensive tackle by more than filling a questionmark position in Colts' offensive line. He's 6-5, 250, and an aggressive blocker.



Jon Morris signed with the Patriots because he didn't believe the Packers when they said he would be No. 1 center. Then the Packers traded away Jim Ringo. But Morris is happy in Boston.

OFFENSE

PLAYER

TEAM

POSITION

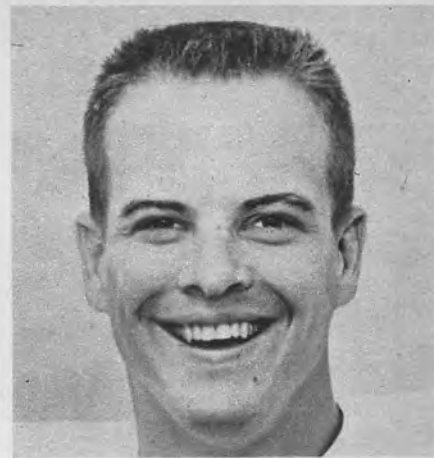
Tight End	Mike Ditka	Chicago Bears
Split End	Paul Warfield	Cleveland Browns
Flanker	Lance Alworth	San Diego Chargers
Tackle	Bob Vogel	Baltimore Colts
Tackle	Ron Mix	San Diego Chargers
Guard	Ken Gray	St. Louis Cardinals
Guard	Jim Parker	Baltimore Colts
Center	Jon Morris	Boston Patriots
Quarterback	John Unitas	Baltimore Colts
Halfback	Paul Hornung	Green Bay Packers
72 Fullback	Jimmy Brown	Cleveland Browns



Mike Ditka has been the best tight end in pro football for the last three seasons. Now in his fifth year with the Bears, Mike still hasn't reached his peak as a blocker or pass-receiver.



Paul Warfield, a second-year man, astounded Cleveland coach Blanton Collier with his speed, moves and sophistication as a rookie. At Ohio State, Warfield was a runner, not a receiver.



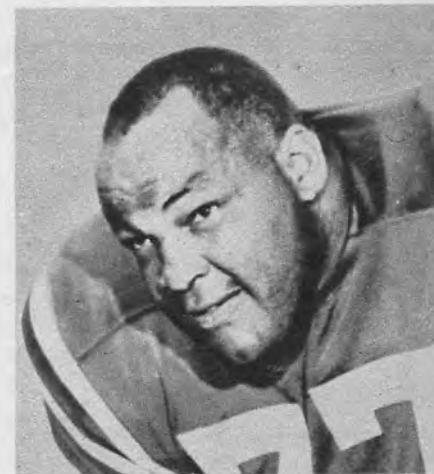
Lance Alworth does it all on speed and great hands. He finished fifth in the AFL in pass receiving, third in scoring and third in punt returns. At 24 he's the AFL's most exciting player.



Ron Mix "could make any team in the NFL." That's what one NFL veteran says of the 26-year-old Charger, a brutal blocker who plays his position with a high degree of intelligence.



Ken Gray, an eight-year veteran, spearheads the Cardinals' offensive line, one of the toughest in the league. Gray, 6-2, 260, has been underrated for years, is a deadly pulling guard.



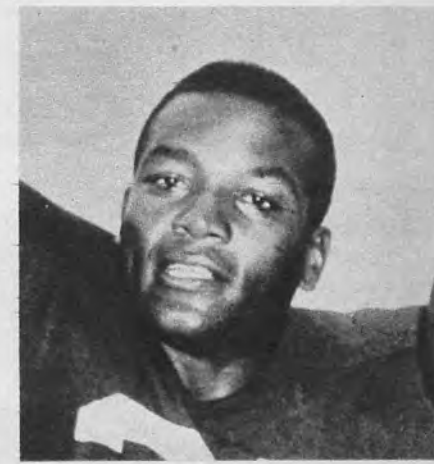
Jim Parker's listed weight is 275, but opponents swear he is closer to 300 and they marvel at how such a big man can move so fast. A nine-year pro, Jim is at home at guard or tackle.



John Unitas led the Colts to NFL championships in '58 and '59. Last year he led them into another title game. John is one of the all-time great quarterbacks, a multi-talented performer.



Paul Hornung wanted a big year in '64 after his year's suspension for gambling. He didn't get it, mainly because of a pinched nerve injury. At 29, he still has time for that big year.



Jimmy Brown led the league in rushing for the seventh time in eight seasons, then led the Browns to a playoff victory over Baltimore. He shows absolutely no signs, at age 29, of slowing up.

DEFENSE



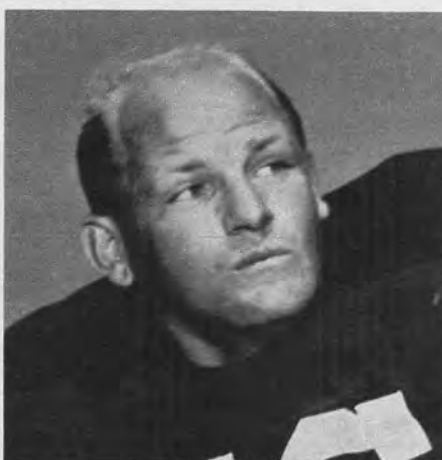
Willie Davis is called "Dr. Feelgood" by his teammates because he's always feeling good. Opponents don't appreciate Willie, though. He's the league's best pass rusher, a crushing tackler.



Dave Jones, 6-4, 270, is the fastest defensive lineman in the pro game today. In addition to quickness, Deacon has the great ability to get rid of blockers with his hands or drive through them.



Merlin Olsen, 6-5, 285 pounds, is larger than most pro tackles, but he's agile, quick, tough and exceptionally bright. Only 24 years old, the Utah State All-America established himself early.



Ray Nitschke, age 28, is just coming into his strength. One of the hardest hitters among the pros, Ray picks off passes and runners with equal ease. "I love to hit people," he says.



Wayne Walker is an underrated corner linebacker, noted mostly for his placekicking ability. But he is very quick, covers the outside zone particularly well and almost never makes mistakes.



Erich Barnes plays the corner for the Giants like a stalking cougar. Quick as a cougar, he likes to gamble on the big interception; he is also one of the league's most jarring tacklers.



Pat Fischer is only 5-10, 180 pounds, but forget it. He plays like a man twice his size, and last year finished second in the league with ten interceptions. Pat doesn't get beat very often.



Roosevelt Taylor is a superb pass defender. He can get beat and still catch the receiver. The best tackling safety in the league, the sprinter from Grambling College is the key to Bears' defense.

Who drew the first big pro football crowds? Red Grange

THE GALLOPING GHOST

IT HAS BEEN SAID that Red Grange had the great good fortune to catapult upon the sports scene at a time when the country was hungry for a football player good enough to be set into the heavens alongside the established gods of baseball and boxing, Babe Ruth and Jack Dempsey. Grange came to glory in one game in 1924, during those booming post-war days when sport was suddenly transformed from a minor American diversion to a multi-million-dollar business. When the times demand, the hero always seems to arise. Babe Ruth, having been traded to the Yankees in 1920, had immediately hit 54 home runs to overwhelm all previous records. Jack Dempsey, having won the heavyweight title in 1919, attracted the first million-dollar gate in 1921, against an aging French middleweight, and the second in 1923, against a big, awkward guy from Argentina.

Red Grange became a part of that scene, a swimmer in that mainstream and a sharer in the rewards. When he turned professional, he joined the Chicago Bears with a contract that made him a full partner in the gate receipts. No other athlete in a team sport has ever approached that kind of a deal in a team sport, and the chances are no other athlete ever will.

It was Grange's good fortune, too, to play his greatest game on precisely that day when the eyes of the whole football world were focused directly upon him. But, you are bound to ask, is that really luck, or is it the very definition of greatness?

How great was Grange? Well, the *Associated Press*' "Football Player of the Half-Century" poll in 1950 ranked him second only to Jim Thorpe. Out of the 391 votes cast, Thorpe had 170, Grange 138. Nagurski had 38 and the rest of the world 45.

Professional football is what it is today, as everybody in the American and in the National football leagues will readily admit, because people came by the thousands to watch Red Grange run and catch passes. Seven years after he left college—his great speed gone, his shoulder tightly bound to keep it from popping out of the socket, his knee so badly damaged that he found it impossible to make a sharp cut—he was still good enough to be chosen as the left halfback on the first NFL All-Star team ever picked.

The best way to describe Red Grange, as a person, is to say that none of his teammates ever seemed to have the slightest resentment about all the publicity he got in college or all the money he took down in the pros. In both instances, they were well aware that Red deserved what he got. Besides, he was always very popular with his teammates and with the players on opposing teams as well.

Harold Edward Grange was not born in the Midwest at all. He was born, on June 13, 1903, in a little Pennsylvania lumber town called Forksville. His mother died when Red was only five, and soon after, his father took him and his younger brother, Garland, to Wheaton, an outlying suburb of Chicago. When Red was 14, he was shipped out to an uncle's farm where he worked, quite literally, from dawn to dusk, bicycling two miles to



and from school in between his labors. When, after a year, Lyle Grange found out how hard his son was being worked, he took Red back to Wheaton to live with him and Garland again, in a small apartment over a store.

However Red may have resented that year on the farm at the time, there can be little doubt that it toughened his body and developed his muscles just as he was beginning to come into his growth. As a 15-year-old weighing less than 140 pounds, he was so strong that he won a dollar from the local iceman, Luke Thompson, by lifting a 75-pound cake of ice onto his shoulder. Thompson gave Red a job and Red spent his summers on Luke Thompson's ice wagon through his entire high-school and college careers.

At Wheaton High School, Red was a superstar in every sport. And, as you can see by that point total, we mean super. A 16-letter man, he set all but unmatched records in baseball, basketball, football and track. Red always claimed that basketball was his best sport, and even as a freshman, he was picked on every all-star team for which he was eligible. In baseball he did well enough to get a contract offer from the Boston Braves. His three-year totals in football were 75 touchdowns and 82 conversions for a grand total of 532 points.

Red enrolled at Illinois and, as a sophomore, in his first varsity game, he broke loose for touchdown runs of 35, 65 and 12 yards against Nebraska. He continued to star all season and was picked to the only All-America team picked in those days—Walter Camp's.

When the 1924 season started, everyone knew the big game of the Midwest was quite obviously going to come on the third Saturday when the two undefeated powers of the previous year, Michigan and Illinois, collided head to head. It was a bitter rivalry under any circumstances because coach Zuppke and coach Hurry Up Yost of Michigan had always looked upon each other with some distrust and much distaste.

Michigan was a solid favorite. Yost had stopped All-Americas cold before. Whenever Yost was asked about Grange, he would smile slyly and say, "Mr. Grange will be a carefully watched man every time he takes the ball. There will be just about 11 clean, hard Michigan tacklers headed for him at the same time. I know he is a great runner, but great runners usually have the hardest time gaining ground when met by special preparation."

Zuppke, a master at getting a team up for one game, had also been looking ahead to this game for almost a year. Throughout the summer, the "Dutch Master" had sent a steady stream of letters to his veteran players, enclosing all the clips on Yost's boasts about stopping Grange and adding his own pungent comments about Michigan's annoying air of confidence. More practically he had given Red a couple of footballs over the summer, along with instructions to practice passing. He had given him something else to work on, too.

Zuppke instructed Red to practice cutting from sideline to sideline, and when spring training began, he laid out an inverted "S" pattern for him to follow. Grange would start around his right end, head for the right sideline, then cut diagonally across to the left sideline, then straighten out briefly, and then, reversing his field for the second time, cut back toward the right corner of the field.

And now Zuppke set his trap. Yost himself came to scout the Illini in their opener against Nebraska, and the Dutch Master prepared to put him in his mixmaster. He left Grange in for the full 60 minutes and, for the first time in his career, the redhead failed to score. He made a few long runs, all right, but just as Yost's scouts had undoubtedly informed him, Grange tended to hug the sidelines.

On October 18, 1924, 67,000 spectators filled Illinois' stadium, the largest crowd ever to have watched a game in

the Midwest up to that time. Thousands more were turned away.

Michigan's strategy was to have Grange carry the ball as often as possible. The more Grange carried, Yost felt, the greater were Michigan's chances to crack him up. It was a daring strategy, a brilliant strategy, a strategy comparable to Napoleon's famed dictum: "To hell with the Russian winter. On to Moscow!"

Illinois lined up, with Grange standing deep in the center of the field. Steger of Michigan, following Yost's orders, aimed his kick right at him.

Red took the ball on his five-yard line and, as Michigan expected, headed for the right sideline. A clutch of Michigan tacklers descended eagerly upon him. But Red didn't let himself be slammed out of bounds. He cut sharply to his left and crossed the whole field. When he got to the left sideline, he ran a straight course for about 20 yards and then, as the last straggling Wolverines came after him, he cut back sharply again, headed for the corner of the end zone, and crossed the goal line in front of quarterback Tod Rockwell's desperation dive.

Grange's greatest day had begun.

Michigan, still anxious to get to work on Grange, chose to kick off again and—still unconvinced—chose to send the ball his way. Red took it in almost precisely the same spot as before and was dropped on the 20. Illinois and Michigan each got a chance with the ball and did nothing. Illinois got it again on its 30 and Grange carried around left end, broke into the secondary, drifted toward the near sideline, then once again cut sharply away from his pursuers and headed for the far sideline. The entire wave of Michigan tacklers had moved toward the left with him, so when Red turned the corner, he had a wall of Illinois blockers between him and Michigan. Only the safetyman had any kind of a shot at him. Red gave him a hip, then cut sharply the other way and ran over for the touchdown.

Michigan was still unconvinced. They still wanted to kick off and they still wanted to give the ball to Grange. After an exchange of punts, Red took the ball on his own 44-yard line, followed his usual route around right end, let the Michigan tacklers close in on him against the sideline, then, once again, cut sharply away. He straightened out at midfield and—as they would say today—levelled off on the goal posts.

You might think that Michigan, 20 points behind now, would want to get its hands on the ball. But, incredible as it seems, they still wanted to kick off. The ball went into the end zone, and for the third time, the Illini started from the 20-yard line. On the first play, Red was not only touched he was swarmed under for a five-yard loss. Illinois punted, Michigan fumbled, and Illinois had possession again on the 45-yard line. Grange thereupon repeated his previous touchdown run almost step for step, cutting in from the sidelines as the Michigan hordes bore down upon him, and faking the safetyman out of his knee pads. He now had touchdown runs of 95, 67, 56 and 45 yards. Red Grange, The Galloping Ghost, had four touchdowns in 12 minutes.

Later in the game Grange circled right end again for the touchdown. Then he passed 18 yards for a final touchdown. He accounted for all six Illinois touchdowns in the 39-14 victory. He gained 402 yards in 21 carries, and completed six passes for 78 more yards.

Grange remained a superstar, the superstar the rest of his college career. In 1925, under the influence of his agent, C. C. Pyle, Grange turned pro after his final college game. His pro career was arranged at a meeting among Pyle and George Halas and Dutch Sternaman, the co-owners of the Chicago Bears of the NFL.

The National Football League, then in its fifth year, was composed of 20 teams—including such obvious misfits as Pottsville, Hammond and Rock Island. The only thing the small-city teams had in common with the big-city



No one in the history of football has ever run as well with a football as Red Grange, above. He could also catch and throw passes.

teams was that they were all losing money. George Halas, the playing coach of the Bears, knew that if anybody could bring professional football glory, prestige, respectability and customers, it was Red Grange.

He made Pyle a staggering offer: a flat one-third of all the receipts. Pyle, who like all great promoters knew what his product was worth, calmly countered with an offer to permit the Bears to keep one-third of the receipts, with Grange getting two-thirds. (Since Pyle's agreement with Red gave him one-half of everything they made, Pyle was actually setting up a three-way partnership.) They battled it out in that hotel room for 26 solid hours before they agreed on an even split between Grange and the Bears.

There can be little doubt that Pyle and Halas each made himself a good deal and yet they both seemed unconscionably eager to squeeze Grange's popularity dry. When Red joined the Bears, the day after his final college game, he had played eight tough football games. The Bears had played ten. And yet Pyle had already set up an exhibition schedule that had Grange and the Bears playing seven games in ten days, three games in the week following that, and then, after a one-week vacation, an eight-game winter tour between Florida and California.

Since the contracts with the individual promoters called for Red to play a minimum of 30 minutes in every game, the schedule wrecked him—as anyone could see that it would—and left him far less of a football player than he had been.

Red's pro debut came against the Chicago Cards on Thanksgiving Day, 1925. There were 36,000 tickets available for Wrigley Field, and the game was a sellout almost from the moment it was announced Red would play.

The game itself was a scoreless tie. Red ran back a couple of punts for respectable distances, but the Cards' Paddy Driscoll was careful to kick away from him all afternoon.

But the crowd was satisfied. Grange was mobbed as he was leaving the field, and a police escort finally was needed to get him to the clubhouse.

A week later, the Bears had an exhibition game against the New York Giants, a team which had laid such an egg in the big city that its owner, Tim Mara, was \$200,000 in the red. This was the game, and the date, in which pro football came of age. Says Mara: "Even with Grange in the lineup, I would have been glad to have seen 25,000 in the stands. Instead, the house was swamped. We drew 70,000 and probably could have got another 70,000 if we'd had room."

Red reinjured that bad shoulder a few days later and had to sit out the final week of the eastern tour, a situation which caused much money to be refunded at the box office. But between the football receipts, a Hollywood movie and the inevitable endorsements, Grange and Pyle split almost half a million dollars in their first year.

The next year, Pyle demanded a share of the Bears for Grange, and when he couldn't get it, he tried to get an NFL franchise in New York. When he couldn't get that either, he started his own league, with Red and himself naturally getting the New York team. In 1927, the NFL, fully aware how much it needed Red, relented and gave the team a franchise. But Grange was beginning to come apart. He twisted his knee against the Bears, limped on courageously through the rest of the season, and then, foolishly, fulfilled his contracts for another post-season exhibition tour. The next year, Grange couldn't play at all, Pyle went broke, and New York was once again a one-team town. Red still had a lot of money in the stock market, but 1929 was looming on the horizon, and Red ended up broke, too. So all the Galloping Ghost had to show for his exhausting days as a pro was a bad knee and a bookful of clippings.

Despite his own misgivings, Red attempted a comeback with the Bears in 1929 at Halas' invitation, and played on for six more years. To keep his knee from falling apart, he always wore a special brace, constructed of elastic and supported by two steel hinges which extended six inches below the knee and six inches above it.

Fittingly enough, the end came for Grange against the Giants, the team that had supplied the backdrop for so many of his great deeds. It was a post-season exhibition in Hollywood, on January 27, 1935. Since Red planned to announce his retirement after the game, his teammates worked up a play to break him loose, so that he could romp into the end zone like the Grange of old, lay the ball carefully down, and walk triumphantly off the field.

It almost worked. They sprung Red loose from his own 20, and he was in the clear at midfield . . . but, at 32, his legs were gone. A 230-pound tackle caught him from behind.

But, then, Red Grange didn't really need that one last touchdown in a meaningless exhibition game. He could walk away to a career of selling insurance and broadcasting football games secure in the knowledge that they would never forget him. He had scored his touchdowns in his day, and he had scored them when the chips were piled high on the table.



**Here is a noted writer's
appreciation of "the
finest pass-catcher
football has ever known"**

"UTTER NONSENSE!" snapped Jock Sutherland in icy finality. "No man can be that good."

His advisers shrugged in dismay and offered no further arguments. They had done their best to warn this newcomer to professional football, but Jock's wrath was too terrifying for them to risk it.

Dr. John Bain (Jock) Sutherland had been a towering figure in collegiate ranks. His teams at the University of Pittsburgh were powerhouses of national stature, as coldly precise as the doctor himself. Now this perfectionist was coaching the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National Football League and for the first time his hapless heroes were about to play a game against the formidable Green Bay Packers and their incomparable Don Hutson, the unbelievable pass-catcher. The Brooklyn board of strategy met.

"How will we set our defenses against Hutson?" asked one.

"We cover him the same as anyone else—one man," said Jock.

"But, doctor," said the brain-truster, a sudden note of urgency in his voice, "that isn't enough. Every other team in the league covers Hutson with at least two men, maybe three or four."

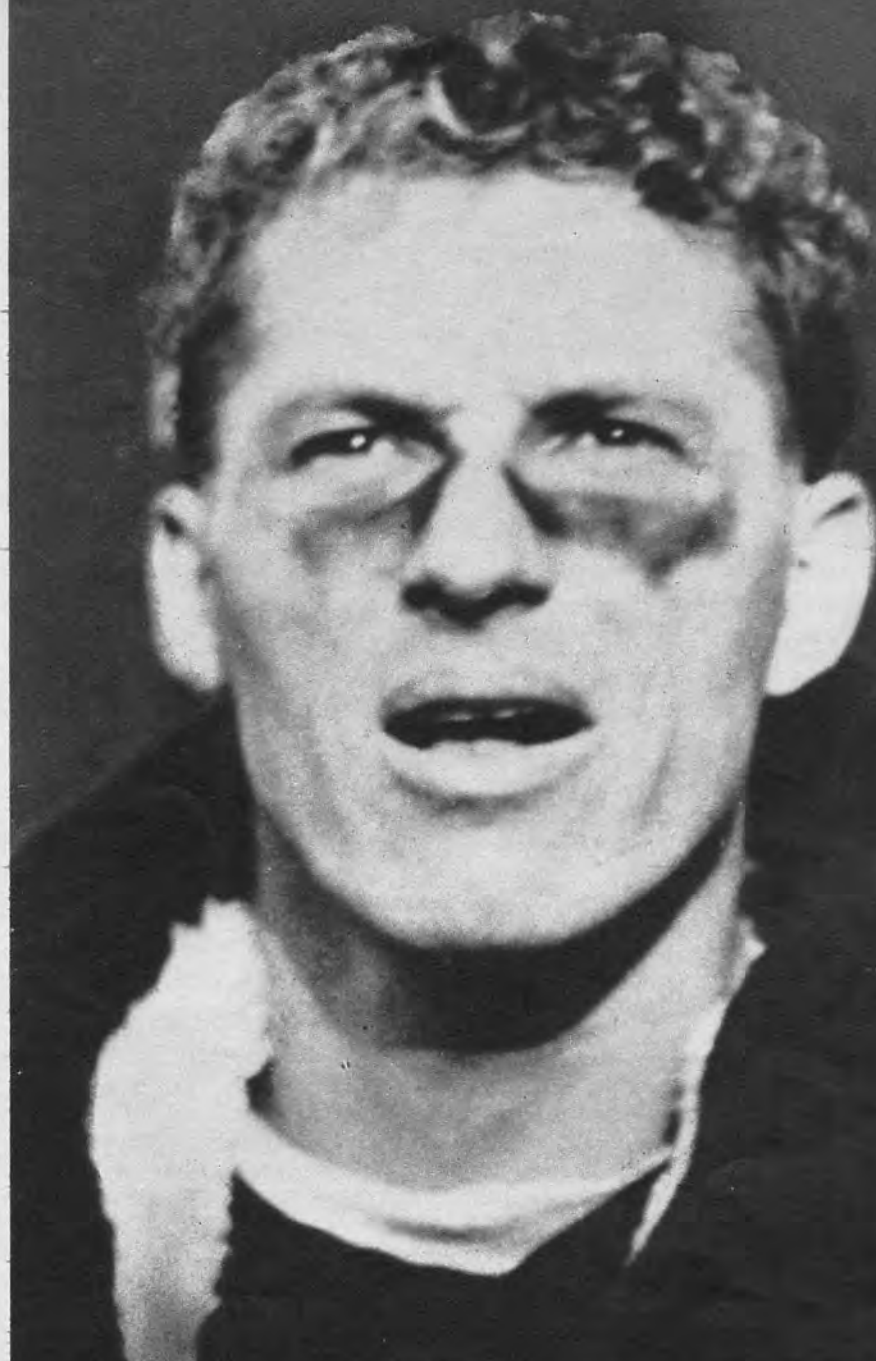
"Utter nonsense!" snorted Sutherland. "No man can be that good."

So the Dodgers covered the Alabama Antelope with one man. Hutson had a picnic. When Sutherland walked off the field at the end of the game, there was a dazed look on his craggy features.

"Now I know," he muttered. "Now I know."

Don Hutson had to be seen to be believed. He was, by all odds, the finest pass-catcher football has ever known.

The proof is in the record book. When Hutson retired at the end of the 1945 season, he held every pass-



The Legend Of **DON HUTSON**

By ARTHUR DALEY

catching and scoring record. An entire page in the book had to be set aside for him. Further, Hutson operated during the one-platoon era when the pace was slower because the offensive stars had to take the beating of defensive play as well. And there was nowhere near as much emphasis on passing then as now.

So the moderns have nibbled away at his records over the intervening years. It was a slow erosion until Billy Howton and Raymond Berry came along. Some of Hutson's records were: most passes caught, 489; most touchdowns scored, 105; most touchdown passes caught, 101, and most yards gained catching passes, 8010.

How good was the 6-1, 180-pound Hutson? Listen:

Before the Packers clashed with the Cleveland Rams one year, a special trap was laid for Hutson by Dutch Clark, the Cleveland coach. He set up the usual defenses against Hutson but supplemented them by giving a specific assignment to Dante Magnani, the fastest man on his squad.

"Your only job today is covering Hutson," said Dutch. "You are to stay with him on every play, and under no circumstances are you to let him get between you and the goal line."

"I'll keep outside him," promised Magnani.

The Packers rumbled past midfield and then it happened. Hutson started from his left end position in that deceptive, shuffling gait and headed in a diagonal line for the right goal post. Magnani ran at his shoulder.

Suddenly Hutson shifted into high gear. Magnani almost blew a fuse in an effort to stay with him, but stay with him he did. Down that imaginary diagonal line sped Hutson until he reached the ten-yard line.

Then Don gave it the jet propulsion. In some inexplicable fashion, Magnani also gave a superhuman burst and stayed with him.

At the same breakneck speed Hutson ran at the right goal post and hooked the upright with his left arm. His feet left the ground and his momentum spun him around the post. Just as he wheeled in the opposite direction to face the field, he reached out his right arm and caught the touchdown pass.

That was Don Hutson for you.

He didn't make all his catches that way, of course, but he was such a master of the feint that he could shake loose from the average defender by moving head or shoulders. The exceptional defenders he fooled with his speed and change of pace.

"Hutson is the only man I ever saw who could feint in three different directions at the same time," said Greasy Neale, coach of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Natural talent made him great, but that wasn't the whole answer. He burnished it with hard work until it shone with a blinding splendor. "For every pass I caught in a game," he once said, "I caught a thousand passes in practice."

Don didn't just go through the motions in practice. Every time he went for a pass he pretended he was in a game, feinting and swerving and changing speed in full-dress rehearsal. He got to know his passers and, more important, they got to know him.

They were able to sense his reactions and sort out the fakes from the real thing. They were reinforced by the knowledge that their passes did not need to have pinpoint perfection. If they threw the ball in the general vicinity of this gluefingered young man, he could catch it more often than not.

Hutson got into football more or less by accident. He stayed by design.

He was born on January 31, 1913, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and his only claim to fame during boyhood was the finest collection of pet rattlesnakes in the state. This should have indicated he would become a man apart, far different from the normal breed.

Football held no interest for him in high school. He awakened to it only because the kid across the street was about to go to a pre-season football training camp in the Ozarks in August of Don's senior year. Hutson went out for the high school team merely to qualify for the trip.

There must have been a strange alchemy in Hutson. Throughout his life he seemed to draw to him great passers whom he transformed into even greater passers. He found one in high school in his lone year of football play, and Don became so proficient a receiver that he was offered a scholarship to the University of Alabama.

The alchemy was still working. A classmate was Dixie Howell, who was to become one of the finest collegiate passers of his day. They were a brilliant pair, and they shone the most in the Rose Bowl on January 1, 1935.

Howell threw seven passes to Hutson that day and Joe Riley threw one. Seven of the eight were completed, two for touchdowns. Curley Lambeau, the pass-minded coach of the Green Bay Packers, made a quick grab for Hutson. The timing was perfect. One year later the National Football League adopted the player draft. Under those conditions Don would have been plucked off the list long before the highriding Packers had a chance at him.

This was the perfect team for the Alabama Antelope, because Green Bay had a long passer of inordinate skill in Arnie Herber. But Don's heart sank when he reported to training camp and saw the size of his teammates. He voiced his doubts to big Cal Hubbard in the dressing room before the opening game against the Chicago Bears.

"I'm scared to death," he confessed to Hubbard. "I did all right in college, but these fellows are so much bigger and better. I'm not even sure I belong up here."

"Don't worry, kid," growled Cal. "You belong."

On the very first scrimmage play Hutson proved that he belonged. He never worried again.

The Packers returned the kickoff to the 20 and then swung into right formation with Hutson at left end and Johnny Blood as the wingback to the right. The pass from center came to the deep man, Herber.

Down the left sideline ambled Hutson in his lazy, shuffling style. Down the right sideline raced Blood, the man who held all the pass-catching records. Hutson moped along, Beattie Feathers of the Bears covering him. Most of the other Chicago backs were covering the weaving and twisting Blood. When Hutson looked across the field to admire the Blood maneuvers, Feathers decided it was safe to sneak a quick look. His eyes left Hutson for no more than the tiniest fraction of a second.

And Hutson was gone. He fled into the clear with the speed that had made him the Southern Conference sprint champion. Herber cocked his arm and threw. Don never broke stride. The ball floated into his arms and he carried it into the end zone. His first play as a pro, an 80-yard touchdown bomb. The Packers beat the Bears that day, 7-0.

Having Blood as a teammate was a help to Don in the beginning, because Johnny had the opposition terrified. But everyone soon got wise to the fact that Hutson was to be feared even more. The Redskins learned that later than most.



The deadliest combination in football for many years was Cecil Isbell to Hutson. One Isbell-to-Hutson touchdown came from the four-inch line. Said Cecil: "Only one of Don's great one-hand catches made it work."

They had the Packers beaten one day, 3-0. Down the field came Green Bay to the 25. Blood was calling signals and he naturally called for a pass to his favorite ball player, himself. But the crowd was screaming in such thunderous fashion that no one heard the signals although Herber suspected that it was Johnny's "Touchdown Special."

Blood tore downfield and caused so much confusion that the bewildered Redskin defenders were attracted in his direction. Hutson just drifted beyond the scrimmage line, so exhausted from the terrific physical beating he'd taken that he meandered a few steps and relaxed. He watched with idle curiosity as Herber danced around, searching for a receiver. At last he found one.

His roving eye lit on the innocent bystander, Hutson. With a flick of his wrist Arnie wafted the ball over to Don. Once the ball dropped into his arms, the tired feeling magically disappeared. Hutson raced for the winning touchdown in what suddenly became a 7-3 final score.

Garrison finishes were something of a trademark for Hutson. In his debut against the Bears he made only one touchdown, but when George Halas, the Papa Bear, got to know him better he paid him grudging tribute.

"I just concede Hutson two touchdowns a game," said Halas, "and then I hope we can score more."

Perhaps it was the second Packer-Bear game of Don's freshman season that really established the youngster. The Bears were winning, 14-3, with three minutes to play, an insuperable margin in that era of low scoring.

"Let's shoot for the moon, Don," said Herber in the 82 huddle.

It was a beautiful moon shot. Hutson raced 60 yards with the pass. The count was 14-10.

"Dear Lord, make them fumble," prayed Johnny Blood.

Someone up there must have liked the Packers. The Bears obligingly fumbled. Herber found Hutson alone in the end zone. He hit with a pass. The Packers won, 17-14.

If Herber and Hutson were as delectable a combination as ham and eggs, Cecil Isbell and Hutson were as palatable as bacon and eggs. There may have been a slight difference to the taste buds, but the nourishment was still there.

Isbell came to the Packers from Purdue just as Herber began to fade. Cece was a shorter passer than the long-range Arnie for the most part, although he tossed the bomb often enough to keep the defense honest.

It was Isbell who contributed to one of the most remarkable of all records. It appeared in the almanac like this: shortest touchdown pass—4 inches.

It came against Cleveland in 1942. The Packers had a first down on the four-inch line.

"That's why it wasn't as silly a play as it seems," explained Isbell afterwards. "If it had failed, I still had three plunges left for the touchdown. Besides, I always felt more confident of scoring with Hutson than any other way."

"What made it truly a remarkable play was not the distance," he added, "but the catch Don made. I was so excited that I threw the ball a mile over his head. Only one of Don's great one-hand catches made it work."

In the Pro Bowl game of 1939 this remarkable combina-



BRONKO

A man named Nagurski is rated as one of the greatest tackles ever. He's also rated as one of the greatest fullbacks. He may also rate as football's No.1 all-round star

By NORMAN KATKOV

HIS REAL NAME is Bronko Nagurski. He was christened Bronko and his oldest son was christened Bronko, too. It is a Ukrainian name. He was born November 3, 1908, on the Canadian side of Rainy Lake. His family came across the lake to Minnesota when he was an infant and he went to early school in International Falls and Bemidji. He came down to the University of Minnesota in 1926 and he played varsity football in 1927, 1928 and 1929. He played end, guard, fullback and tackle and in 1929 was named to every All-America team in the country at tackle and, on many, at fullback.

The late Frank Menke, who knew sports the way Old Man Webster knew words, said, "He (Bronko Nagurski) has solved the problem of what to do with the extra man when you are picking an All-America. You can put him anywhere."

Frank Menke was backed up by Grantland Rice who said, "You could have picked him at any position."

That was the collegiate career. Then he signed with the Chicago Bears, playing with them for eight years through 1937, and briefly in 1943. When he hung up the headgear after the '37 season, a Chicago newspaper said: "The Chicago Bears' fullback, perhaps the greatest figure in the records of the National Football League, has decided to forego another season."

He graduated from high school in June, 1926. In late September, Bronko Nagurski, age 18, 218 pounds, came down to Minneapolis and found a room near the campus of the University of Minnesota. In the few days before classes, he would explore from daylight to darkness, finding his way among the maze of buildings which he, as much as any individual, was to make famous in the following four years. He found his way painfully and slowly, but he never faltered.

He found the football field, too. It lay then behind Memorial Stadium and was fenced off by huge



CONTINUED

tarpaulins. There he found Oscar Munson, in charge of equipment, who liked the Big Fellow immediately. He found the freshman squad assembled on the down side of the field, where the turf was uneven and sometimes covered with pebbles. He got in line, looking across at the varsity.

Looking at the varsity, Bronko moved along until it was his turn to hit the tackling dummy. He stood unmoving until the freshman coach yelled, "Hit that dummy, dummy!"

Bronko hit it.

When he got up, the freshman coach was frowning. He motioned the Nag forward. "Hit it again!" he ordered.

Bronko hit it again.

When he got up, the dummy was some 15 yards from its moorings and the freshman squad was staring at him. So was the freshman coach. "What's your name?" asked the freshman coach.

"Bronko Nagurski."

"Your real name, kid."

"That's my real name."

"Now, listen . . ." the freshman coach warned. But Bronko was patient.

"That's my real name," he said. "It's a Ukrainian name. I'm Ukrainian."

"Wait over there," the freshman coach ordered, and started across the field.

Later that afternoon Doc Spears, the varsity coach, approached the tow-headed kid who weighed 218 pounds.

"Where are you from, boy?"

Bronko told the coach his home was in International Falls and he had played football at Bemidji.

"What position?"

"Fullback," Nagurski said. "Fullback and guard and tackle and wherever they needed me."

"Who was your coach?" demanded Doc Spears.

Bronko grinned. "Mostly me," he said. "We had no coach."

Spears nodded and barked an order. Bronko followed the coach across the field to the varsity's tackling dummy. "Hit it!" the coach ordered.

He hit it.

When he got up, Spears felt the boy from International Falls as a physician feels a man. When he was finished, he said, "Get plenty of sleep."

That was all he said. That was the beginning.

When the season was finished, Bronko was, too. A few weeks before Christmas, Oscar Munson looked up from his equipment to see a grim Nagurski before him.

"I'm going home," the Bronko said.

"Not until after finals (quarterly examinations)," said Oscar Munson.

"I'm going home for good. I haven't got money. I haven't got food money. My rent. I looked all over for a job. There isn't a job."

"You wait," Oscar Munson said.

Within five minutes he was back to escort Bronko to Doc Spears' office. Five minutes after that, Bronko had a job, firing the furnace in an office building on the edge of the campus for \$50 a month.

In 1927, \$50 a month housed you, fed you, and left you a little change for a movie. In 1927, too, that was as far as a subsidy went at Minnesota: no checking accounts, no convertibles, no free rides at fraternities, no guaranteed passing grades. You worked and you studied, and then you played football.

In '27, Bronko's sophomore year, Minnesota had the finest fullback in the country: Herb Joesting. It had the finest end: Ken Haycraft. And Doc Spears pulled the wraps off the finest tackle in the season's first game—Bronko Nagurski, who tore big, ragged holes in the opposing line.

Against Notre Dame that year, Knute Rockne's Notre Dame, Bronko was great. When Notre Dame tried the

right side of the line, they ran into this fellow Bronko Nagurski whom all the sportswriters were asking questions about. When they tried the left side, they ran into Nagurski behind scrimmage, waiting for them, moving one blocker with one hand and the other with the other hand or elbow or hip, always keeping loose for the runner, who abruptly stopped running when he encountered Nagurski.

If the Bronko was tough, the Notre Dame line was just as tough. Going into the fourth quarter, Notre Dame led, 7-0. Eight plays after the start of the fourth quarter Notre Dame decided to kick and Nagurski decided to block the kick. Notre Dame's Ed Wynne, receiving the ball behind the line, saw Nagurski coming through. He saw Nagurski coming through his blockers and he hurried, letting the ball go, bringing his foot up and watching the Nag come down on him. Then it was too late as the ball and players were on the green together and men of both teams piled on. Nagurski had the ball.

It took Herb Joesting four plays behind Bronko to score and the game ended 7-7. A great showing for the underdog.

That was Bronko, the tackle. He also played fullback. Years after that Notre Dame game, when Nagurski was finishing up with the Chicago Bears as a fullback, word got around that he was through. This word, it should be added, was never passed by anyone who lined up against him on a football field. But it got around nevertheless. Steve Owen, then coach of the New York Giants, said, "Nagurski is through? He's slowed down? I'll tell you how through he is. I'll tell you how much he has slowed down. Now he only gains an average of six yards per try."

Grantland Rice said of him: "Bronko Nagurski is the only man who ever lived who could lead his own interference in a game."

But the pros came later. In college in 1928, Nagurski broke loose against Iowa, with only Willis (Bill) Glassgow between him and the touchdown. Nagurski ran straight over him and scored. Nagurski also broke three ribs. Doc Spears said it meant a month out of action, and Nagurski said, "I'm fine if I don't bend."

The following Saturday in Northwestern's Dyche Stadium, Nagurski started at tackle, standing straight up and down. All the Wildcats had to do for a gain was knock him over. There are four sportswriters in the Twin Cities area alone who were there that day and never saw him hit the ground once. He just threw the Northwestern players aside as they came at him. When they left the ground in flying tackles, he would back up and let them roll. When two came at him, he would take one with each arm. On offense it was easier. He just went through, leading the interference standing up.

He started and finished that game. Afterward, he walked to the dressing room while a man named George Halas sat in the stands. Halas owned the Chicago Bears and decided then and there that someday Bronko would play for him.

After the Northwestern game in 1928, on the last Saturday of November, Minnesota met unbeaten Wisconsin, conquerors of Notre Dame (22-6), Iowa (13-0), Chicago (25-0), Alabama (15-0) and Michigan (7-0) among others. Wisconsin was tough that freezing Saturday at Madison. They blocked hard and they tackled hard. There was usually one more man than necessary atop a Minnesota runner and there were frequently two more than necessary on top of Bronko Nagurski when he was brought down. It was a scoreless tie at the half, and for once in his life Doc Spears was quiet. "You're doing the best you can against a fine team," he told his players. "I'm proud of you."

It was tied 0-0 in the third quarter. It was tied 0-0 in the fourth when Minnesota took possession on its own 33-yard line. They gave the ball to Nagurski and he got eight yards. He got eight on the second try. Minnesota

AFL

American Football League

1965 PREVIEW

By DICK KAPLAN

The 1965 season will be the American Football League's finest. Increased season ticket sales guarantee a continued attendance upsurge. Success in this year's college player draft assures an infusion of capable new talent.

And, too, our games will be reaching a greater audience on television. With the commencement of our five-year contract with the National Broadcasting Company, the number of stations carrying AFL games will increase.

I'm sure you can see why I'm so enthused about the prospects for the '65 season just from what I've mentioned thus far. There are other reasons. For one, the AFL now has reached maturity in every phase of the professional football business. This is most important on the playing field, where we now have a broad base of talent with the experience of four or five pro seasons behind it. Yes, the AFL has achieved adulthood—and its best years are still ahead.

Fred Kaplan



A handwritten signature of Joe Foss in cursive script.

JOE FOSS
American Football League Commissioner

NOTE: All predictions are based on team rosters as of June 1. Subsequent trades cannot be accounted for here.



NEW YORK JETS

Showman Sonny Werblin builds his aerial circus.

BUFFALO BILLS

They find out the way the Cookie crumbled.

BOSTON PATRIOTS

Boston has Babe and Gino, but they're not quite enough.

HOUSTON OILERS

New coach, new stadium, same last-place finish.

**The New York Jets
are ready to ride Joe
Namath's arm—and
Matt Snell's legs—to
their first AFL
division championship**

THE American Football League has been like a surfer riding the big waves: first he's up, then he's down. Happily, the AFL has been up more than down, and calmer water lies ahead. Entering its sixth season, the league begins its five-year, \$36 million TV deal with NBC, which guarantees each franchise comparative financial stability. Ticket sales are up for every team but Kansas City, and in New York and Denver they have risen fantastically. The Jets expect to have at least 40,000 season tickets sold before the season starts, and are talking about setting a limit on them. By early spring, Denver had sold more season tickets than it had spectators at any 1964 game.

Much of this fan interest can be traced to the AFL's increasing success in signing name college players. The rival NFL still has an edge, but it's a thinner and thinner one. Of its eight first-round draft picks, the AFL signed five—and of the five players drafted No. 1 by both leagues, the AFL signed three. The ones who are really profiting by this price war are the players. It may not last forever, though. Some NFL owners are beginning to wonder about the feasibility of a common draft, and there has even been some very tentative,

ILLUSTRATED BY RAY HOULIHAN



SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

On his own at last, John Hadl will come through at quarterback.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Cotton, Clem, Art, Cannon undone by defense.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Could go higher if injured players all succeed in comebacks.

DENVER BRONCOS

Respectability is hard to buy, but they're trying.



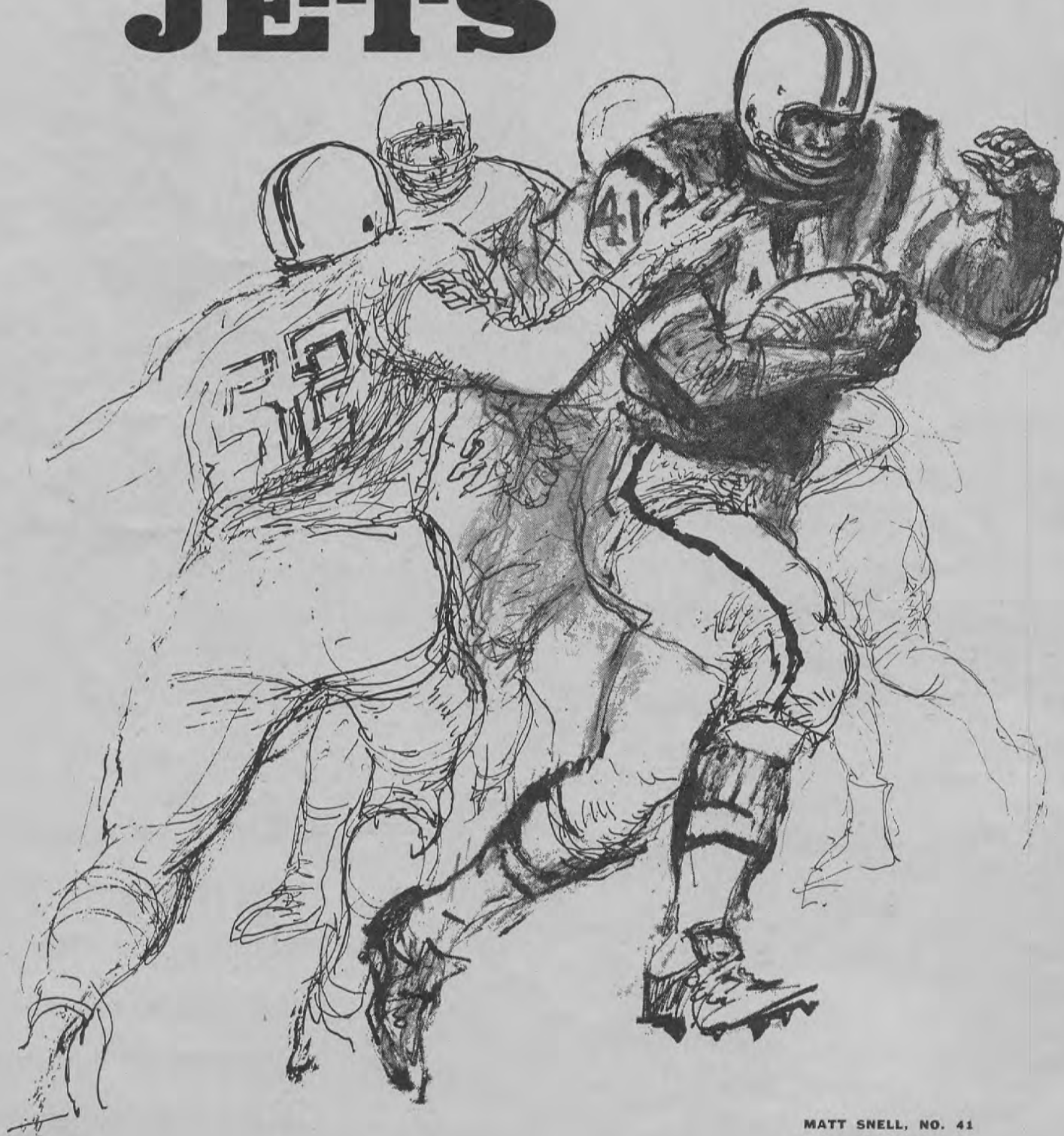
unofficial discussion about a merger of the two pro leagues into two 12-team sections, with new clubs in Miami and Atlanta.

Competitively, the AFL seems in better shape than ever. This is particularly true of last year's weaklings, Houston and Denver. The Broncos have added two proven running backs in Cookie Gilchrist and Abner Haynes. It's helped them at the box office and should help them even more on the field. The Oilers, who will introduce football to the Astrodome, can't believe the good Lord will again afflict them with the abundance of injuries that doomed them to the cellar last season. What this means is closer races in both East and West, with more teams bunched around .500.

Picking a winner is harder in the East than in the West. We think the Jets will upset Buffalo in the East, mainly because of rookie quarterback Joe Namath, who should make it big right away. The Bills may be sounder, but we can't help remembering how much trouble they had beating New York and Boston in 1964. San Diego is too deep for the rest of the West, and should beat New York in the championship game. Namath isn't that good—yet.

Nobody is yet strong enough to dethrone the Chargers. But every other team is now on the way to ending San Diego's domination

NEW YORK JETS



MATT SNELL, NO. 41

Rookie quarterbacks don't usually win in pro ball.
But "Goldfinger" Joe Namath is not the usual rookie. This
\$400,000 passer has that rare championship quality

WEEB EWBank, five-by-five head coach of the Jets, believes in one quarterback at a time. Always has, probably always will. When he was with the Baltimore Colts, Ewbank found a relatively unknown, \$6-a-game sandlotter named John Unitas—and stuck with him. Unitas won him two National Football League championships. This year Weeb has quarterbacks coming out of every pore. He'll have to sift through five of them in his search for one. Among them will be the two most expensive young passers ever to play a game of pro ball: Joe Namath of Alabama and John Huarte of Notre Dame. Like most football men, Ewbank realizes that it usually takes three or four seasons to develop a pro quarterback. But with Namath and Huarte—especially Namath—Weeb thinks it can be accomplished much sooner. Like in 1965, for example. If he's right, if Namath or Huarte takes over as regular quarterback, welcome to the Jet era.

All the fuss over Namath/Huarte has obscured the fact that the Jets already have a starting quarterback. But \$600,000 of owner Sonny Werblin's money says that Dick Wood will not start for long. That's the amount the Jets reportedly paid for Namath (\$400,000) and Huarte (\$200,000). This kind of expenditure isn't exactly a vote of confidence in Wood and his 1964 understudies, Mike Taliaferro and Pete Liske. Actually, Wood is a good quarterback. But he has probably reached his performance peak—and it has not been high enough to win championships. In three pro seasons, Dick has completed 45.9 percent of his passes, 47 percent last year. Five knee operations have left him with the mobility of a light stanchion.

But Namath and Huarte! Consider Namath. Jet scouts grade all college prospects in 12 categories: Quickness, Agility, Strength, Reaction Time, Coordination, Size Potential, Durability, Speed for Position, Intelligence, Character, Aggressiveness, Pride. Namath received the maximum rating—Outstanding—in eight out of 12 departments; the second highest rating in the remaining four. The report summed him up this way: "An outstanding passer with big, good hands and exceptionally fast delivery. Has good agility and sets up very well. A fine 'scrambler.' Throws the short pass very well and can also throw the 'bomb' with great accuracy. Is smart and follows the game plan perfectly. Is a fine leader. . . . Will be everyone's number one draft choice."

Other scouts were equally lavish. The Houston Oiler prospector simply wrote, "The best!" across Namath's report card, while one NFL coach admits that Joe could be the best quarterback to enter pro ball in 15 years. Of course, there is the matter of Namath's bad right knee. Surgery was performed last winter to repair the torn knee cartilage, a small cyst was also removed, and now the doctors pledge that Namath's knee is sound.

Huarte, 6-0, 190 pounds to Namath's 6-2, 194, is not considered as elegant a passer. Still, the message on John's Heisman Trophy says that he was the outstanding college player in the country last year. He took Notre Dame to within 95 seconds of an unbeaten record and the national championship. The scouts note that Huarte throws with a sidearm delivery, the legacy of an old shoulder injury. They wonder if he will be able to get the ball over the upraised arms of those big pro rushers.

With this caliber of no-cut competition, Taliaferro and Liske, last season's rookie

One coach says the Jets' 220-pound fullback Matt Snell is

quarterbacks, don't figure. The league has expanded its player limit to 36 men, and the Jets will probably carry three quarterbacks: Namath, Huarte and Wood. Taliaferro is a hard, fast runner who throws a nice ball, but he completed only 31.4 percent of his passes on the few occasions he got to play. He might do better elsewhere. Liske spent almost all of '64 on the taxi squad. He may hang on as a defensive back.

Resolution of the quarterback dilemma should make a more dangerous ballcarrier out of the Jets' top player, 1964 "Rookie of the Year" Matt Snell, by taking the pressure off him. Snell, a 220-pound fullback, was the AFL's second leading ground-gainer—945 yards on 215 carries for a 4.4-yard average. He also tied for seventh place among the pass-receivers with 55 catches. Coach Mike Holovak of the Boston Patriots calls Snell "the next Jimmy Brown." Matt does not have Brown's bursting speed, but he does possess exceptional balance and straight-ahead power, enough acceleration to turn the ends when he has to, and a willingness to block unselfishly.

The Jets realize that they need more backfield speed. Snell, his substitute, veteran Mark Smolinski, and tight halfback Bill Mathis are all big men who are happiest plowing inside, through the briar patch. Mathis' strong blocking helped Snell break free time and again last year, but when Bill and Matt both start, New York has no outside threat. That's why coach Ewbank will take a careful look at his fourth draft pick, Bob Schweikert of Virginia Tech. Schweikert, 195 pounds, was a running quarterback in college. The Jets will try him at halfback—and also flanker, defensive back and kick-returner. Schweikert has excellent speed. Cosmo Iacavazzi is another interesting rookie back. Cosmo was a standout single-wing fullback at Princeton, but at 5-11, 205 pounds, he must play halfback in the pros—if he is fast enough.

If the runners are heavy-footed, the pass-receivers aren't. Split end Bake Turner and flanker Don Maynard are especially tough running deep routes. Turner caught 58 passes last season, and Maynard caught 46. There is one problem with Maynard. Don sometimes breaks pass patterns. This confuses the quarterback, who throws to a predetermined spot, leads to interceptions and drives Ewbank crazy. When Maynard did it last year, Weeb replaced him with rookie Jim Evans. Veterans Gene Heeter and Dee Mackey, both 235 pounds, will share tight end. Heeter has had an operation on his injured knee.

New York's offensive line played much better in '64, particularly when it came to pass blocking. Jet quarterbacks were thrown for losses only 27 times. Everybody is back. Sam DeLuca, a Brooklyn schoolteacher, and Dan Ficca are the guards. Mike Hudock will start at center for the sixth consecutive season. Huge Sherman Plunkett and Winston Hill will play tackle. Plunkett, 295 pounds, made the all-star team and enjoyed his finest pro season in '64. He scored an amazing 91 percent on his pass-blocking assignments. Hill, 275 pounds, is progressing rapidly. He's gone from taxi squad to all-star squad in two years. Hill can also play center; he did last year after Hudock was hurt. Since DeLuca was also injured, that's one of two reasons why the Jets faded late in the

"the next Jimmy Brown." Snell was '64 Rookie of the Year

year. (The other reason was defensive backfield injuries.) For bench strength, the Jets have guards Pete Perrault, Dan Kearley and Paul Perret; center John Schmitt; tackles Jim McCusker and Ralph Farmer; and Dave Herman and Mitch Dudek, who can play guard or tackle. Dudek, Farmer, Perret and Kearley are rookies.

Besides landing those costly quarterbacks, coach Ewbank sought defensive players in the college draft. He thinks he got the big linemen he wants in 250-pound Verlon Biggs of Jackson State, 265-pound Jim Harris of Utah State and Seth Cartwright of Prairie View, also 265. Biggs is the boy the NFL thought it had stashed away during the draft meetings, but the Jets signed him. He can play tackle or end and runs 40 yards in 4.7 seconds. Harris and Cartwright are both tackles.

It will be at tackle, incidentally, that the rookies will have their best chance to win jobs. Paul Rochester and Gordy Holz are the holdovers there. Gerry Philbin and Bert Wilder, outstanding as rookies, appear to have the defensive end jobs locked up. Philbin has undergone a successful operation to repair the shoulder separation that kept him out most of the season. After Gerry was injured, Wilder switched to left end and veteran Laverne Torczon played right end. Now Wilder will return to the right side, where he is more effective. Torczon, Bob Watters, rookie Gary Plumlee of New Mexico and maybe Biggs will be the reserves. Swing man Bob McAdams can play end or tackle.

Last year the Jets yearned for a glamorous, Huff-tough player the fans would take to. They found him in middle linebacker Wahoo McDaniel, a colorful, 240-pound Choctaw Indian obtained from Denver. As the Jets' new "image," Wahoo got credit for more tackles (115) than he made, but he did help the New York linebacking. McDaniel is toughest against running plays. Second-year pro Ed Cummings and rookie Skip Hoover of Ohio U. are in reserve. The corner linebackers will be All-AFL Larry Grantham on the right side, soph Ralph Baker on the left. Experienced Bob Rowley and Memphis State rookie Bob Finamore are corner spares.

The Jet pass defense was the second worst in the league in '64. But most of the damage was done after cornerbacks Clyde Washington and Marshall Starks were lost for the season. Starks broke his leg and Washington tore an Achilles tendon. Both needed long hospital care and rehabilitation, and must be listed as question marks. On the other hand, safetymen Dainard Paulson and Bill Baird are exclamation points. Paulson led the league with a record-tying 12 interceptions. If Washington and/or Starks cannot come back fully, Ewbank has a melange of pro discards—Mark Johnston, Willie West, Bill Rademacher, Bill Pashe, Vince Turner and Pete Liske.

What it boils down to, though, is this: can Joe Namath come on in one season? In the spring, coach Ewbank went down to Alabama and gave Namath a cram course in Jet terminology and plays. If Joe can move the Jets against pro defenses on two legs the way he moved Alabama against Texas on one in the Orange Bowl, New York will blast off its two-year 5-8-1 plateau and win the Eastern title.

BUFFALO BILLS

**The champions will learn
what a difference a fullback makes,
if his name is Gilchrist**

THE BILLS traded one 250-pound fullback for another. Sounds like a fair exchange, but it isn't. Billy Joe, acquired from the Broncos, isn't Cookie Gilchrist, exiled to Denver because he was too much trouble in Buffalo. Say what you will about Gilchrist's attitude, he is still the best running back in the AFL. Billy Joe is a good fullback. He was "Rookie of the Year" in 1963, he is six years younger than Cookie, and maybe a bit faster. Maybe he'll gain about as much yardage with the Bills' huge offensive line scooping out holes for him. Maybe. But how about blocking? Gilchrist is also the finest blocking back in pro football.

All this Joe-Gilchrist comparison has barbed relevance because Buffalo is basically a running team. The Bills passed only 369 times last year, low for the league. And Gilchrist, blocking and running, made this power game go. If Joe should prove to be just another guy, coach Lou Saban could switch 220-pound veteran Wray Carlton from halfback to fullback. Wray was hurt almost all last season. Most likely he will stay at halfback, keeping faster backs Willie Ross, Joe Auer and Bob Curington moored to the bench. At flanker, Elbert Dubenion broke the league record by averaging 27 yards per pass reception last year. The only problem at quarterback is that there are two of them. Jackie Kemp is the bomb-thrower, while Daryle Lamonica is more a running, rollout threat. Last year Saban stayed with Kemp in the important games—against Boston for the Eastern title, then against San Diego for the league championship.

The offensive line is well populated, too, except at tight end, where Saban broods that 33-year-old Ernie Warlick may be fraying, Glenn Bass is the split end. He caught 43 passes last year. Stew Barber and Billy Shaw are all-stars at left tackle and left guard. Center Walt Cudzik was good enough to shove Al Bemiller over to right guard—and Bemiller was good enough to make the adjustment in championship style. Dick Hudson returns to play right tackle. Young players complicate matters. Like 260-pound Dave Behrman, who sat out his rookie season with an exhibition game injury. Or top draft picks Jim Davidson of Ohio State, a tackle, and Al Atkinson, a Villanova guard. Saban may trade an interior lineman for a blocking end.

Buffalo has the most rugged defense in the league, particularly against rushing. Credit this to a thundering herd up front: Roland McDole, 280, and Tom Day, 262, at the ends; 270-pound All-Leaguer Tom Sestak and 276-pound Jim Dunaway at the tackles. We'll spare you the arithmetic; they average 272 pounds. Either Dunaway or Day could lose his job to Tom Keating. Tom was a starting tackle as a rookie in '64, before he broke his leg. He also plays end—as does LSU rookie Remi Prudhomme. The deep secondary is as small as the front four are big. Only cornerback Butch Byrd has real size (211 pounds). Otherwise it's 180-pounders Charley Warner and Booker Edgerson competing at left corner, with 5-10 All-AFLer George Saines and 5-11 Gene Sykes at safety. Ray Abbruz-



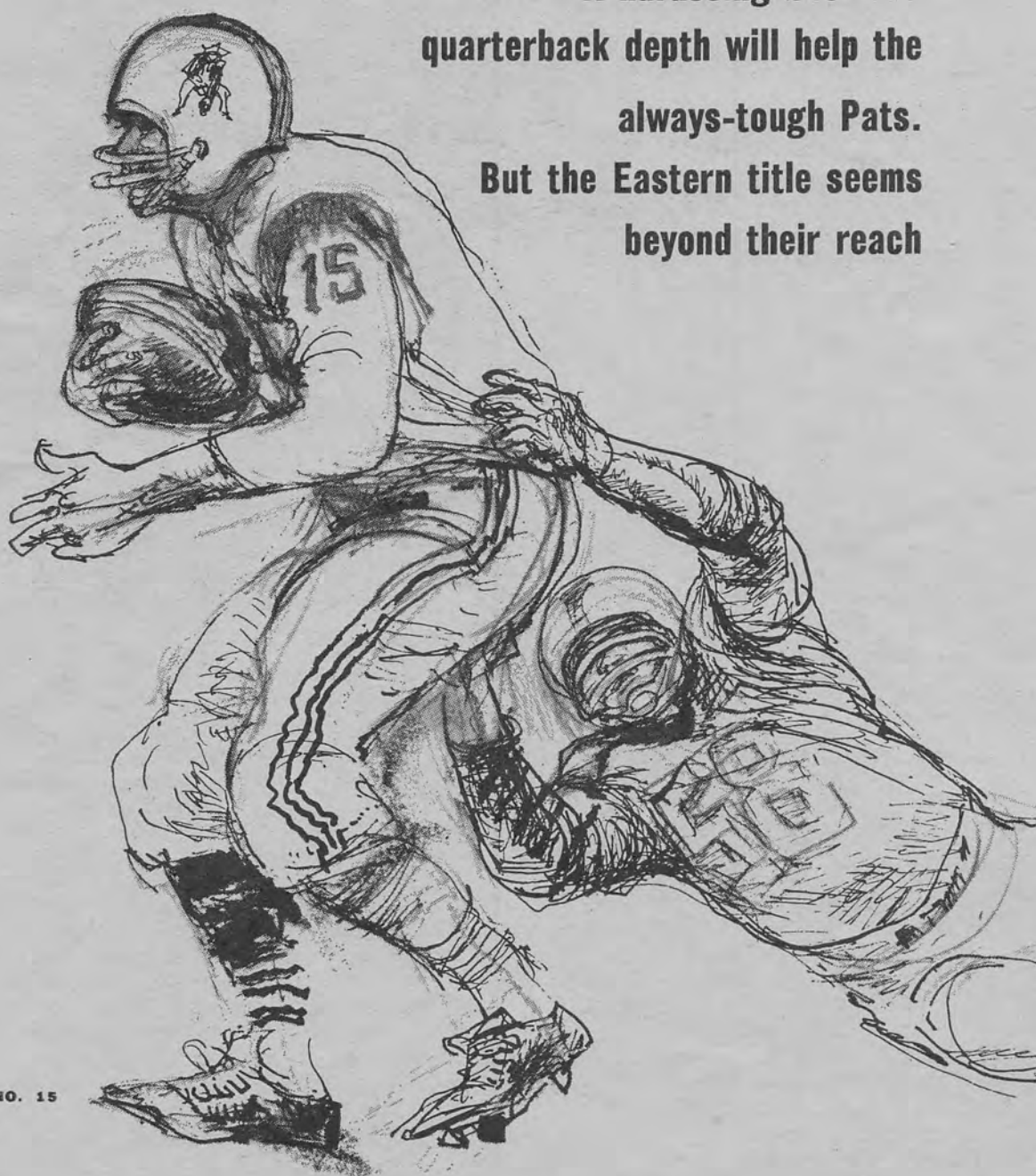
TOM SESTAK, NO. 70

zese and Hagood Clarke are the support troops. Rookie Floyd Hudlow of Arizona State should stick, too. The Buffalo linebackers, supposedly weak, weren't—at least not in '64. Middle linebacker Harry Jacobs covered better on passes; right linebacker Mike Stratton got All-AFL notice; and left linebacker John Tracey had his best year, capped by the destruction of San Diego's Keith Lincoln in the championship game. The leading rookie is 225-pound Marty Schottenheimer of Pitt. Paul Maguire will again do the punting, and Pete Gogolak the placekicking. Maguire averaged 42.6 yards, third best in the league. Gogolak, with that sidewinding approach to the ball, made 19 of 28 field goal attempts as a rookie.

This is a sound Buffalo team. But without Cookie, it will not be better than last year—nor even as good.

BOSTON PATRIOTS

A harassing blitz and
quarterback depth will help the
always-tough Pats.
But the Eastern title seems
beyond their reach



BABE PARILLI, NO. 15

THE PATRIOTS keep surprising you. Last year they narrowly missed beating out Buffalo for the Eastern title, although the Bills seemed far stronger. Really, there's nothing mysterious about it. Coach Mike Holovak and his staff have constructed a tricky, red-dogging defense that rushes the bejabbers out of opposing quarterbacks and keeps the Boston offense in the game. Holovak thinks his team will be better than it was in '64. He cites the acquisition of quarterback Eddie Wilson and a record number of rookies signed. He concedes that more linemen would help, however, on offense and defense.

They key men in Boston's defense are the linebackers—Tom Addison and Jack Rudolph at the corners, Nick Buoniconti in the middle. Buoniconti, 220 pounds, could mature into the league's best in '65. Veterans Mike Dukes, Don McKinnon and Lonnie Farmer supply adequate depth. Up front, 240-pound Bob Dee and 250-pound Larry Eisenhauer will start at the ends; 245-pound Jim Hunt and 270-pound Houston Antwine at the tackles. Dee and Eisenhauer are the finest end combination in the AFL, and Antwine is a magnificent tackle. The only other lineman with experience is end Leonard St. Jean. Holovak hopes he will have 275-pound rookie Jim Wilson, the tackle who signed a secret agreement with the Pats last summer, then brazenly played out his senior year at Georgia Tech. Wilson later signed with the 49ers and now says he will never play for Boston. The courts will decide, and precedent says Wilson will play where he wants to play—in San Francisco!

Four veterans make for a solid secondary: Don Webb and Chuck Shonta at the corners, Ross O'Hanley and Ron Hall at safety. Dick Felt, Dave Cloutier and Tom Stephens are the backup men, with White Graves of LSU the most promising rookie. Along the offense line, it'll be Art Graham at split end, backed by Jim Colclough and rookie Jim Whalen, with Tony Romeo at tight end. Don Oakes and Bob Schmidt will play tackle, with Charley Long and Billy Neighbors at the guards. And center Jon Morris was sensational as a '64 rookie. But there isn't much behind these regulars.

The signing of 225-pound Syracuse fullback Jim Nance may solve a backfield problem. Now Holovak can shift 195-pound Larry Garron to halfback. Garron was the eighth best ground-gainer in the league last year, despite a serious back injury. Boston also has a potential breakaway star in second-year man J.D. Garrett. He may make it hard for slowed-down veteran Ron Burton to stay on the roster. Quarterback Babe Parilli, 35, has played 12 seasons—and thus far all epitaphs have been premature. But Babe did throw 31 interceptions last year. He may have trouble keeping Eddie Wilson out of the lineup. Wilson played well behind Len Dawson at Kansas City. Wilson, an excellent punter, could also kick Tom Yewcic out of work. Yewcic averaged only 38.9 yards a punt last year. Boston's placekicker is the AFL's "Most Valuable Player," flanker Gino Cappelletti, who kicked 37 out of 37 PATs, 25 field goals in 38 tries, and caught seven touchdown passes to lead the league in scoring.



HOUSTON OILERS

**Bones Taylor hopes to win, win, win, by replacing
pass, pass, pass, with run, run, run. But who's going to
lose the first punt in the sun at the Astrodome?**

FOOTBALL COMES to Houston's 45,368-seat Astrodome on August 7, when the Oilers play the Jets in an exhibition game. The same two teams then open the regular season under the dome on September 14. On the field, the Oilers' biggest changes have been at the top. The club played musical chairs with its coaches. Sammy Baugh, last year's head coach, is now offensive backfield coach. Bones Taylor, last year's defensive secondary coach, is now head coach.

Taylor has a young team. The Oilers carried 15 new players in '64, including nine rookies. Then the club was decimated by injuries; there were eight knee operations alone. The defense was weak, particularly against the long pass, and the offense did not feature enough running. Coach Taylor believes that the return of top cornerback Tony Banfield will tighten the pass defense. Banfield, an All-Star in '63, was out with an injury last year. Since Pete Jaquess made the '64 All-Star team as a rookie, the Oilers will be strong at both corners. Rookie W.K. Hicks also came on well at left safety, while veteran Fred Glick rated All-AFL mention at right safety. The linebacking could be greatly improved if Baylor rookie Bobby Maples is as good as advertised. The regulars are injury-prone Danny Brabham and Johnny Baker at corner linebacker, Doug Cline in the middle. The defensive line is thin. Gary Cutsinger and Don Floyd will play the ends, with 12-year veteran Bud McFadin and soph Scott Appleton at the tackles. Appleton was also tried at end and linebacker last year, but now he'll be planted at tackle and should harden Houston's pass rush. Veteran Ed Husmann can swing between end and tackle.

On offense, the Oilers passed 64.4 percent of the time last year. Quarterback George Blanda, now 37, hit on 262 of 505 attempts, both league records. George had only one strong runner, rookie halfback Sid Blanks—whose 5.2-yard rushing average was the best in the team's history—and the line seemed to block better on passes than runs. So Blanda threw. Charlie Tolar, the fireplug plunger (5-6, 200), will get competition from former Kansas City fullback Jack Spikes. Halfback Ode Burrell, a second-year pro, has great potential, but isn't likely to play much behind Blanks.

Charlie Hennigan, the Oiler flanker, is the be-all and end-all among AFL receivers. He caught a record 101 passes last year. However, there may be a morale problem with Charlie. He wants a lot more money—especially since he knows that his substitute, Baylor rookie Lawrence Elkins, got a six-figure contract to sign with Houston. Sprinter Charlie Frazier will play his second season at spread end, and there's a crowd at tight end: Bob McLeod, Will Dewveall and Willie Frazier. All have been regulars at times. The offensive line will be buttressed by the return of tackle Rich Michael, out with a bad knee in '64. Sonny Bishop can now go back to guard, teaming once again with All-AFL Bob Talamini. Walt Suggs will play the other tackle, with Tom Goode at center.



GEORGE BLANDA, NO. 16

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS



KEITH LINCOLN, NO. 22

Since Lowe is back in high, Lincoln can't be freed. Even so, the Chargers are too much!

YOU SAY Chargers and you say championships. At least that's the way it's been in the Western Division of the AFL ever since the league's first kickoff back in 1960. In five seasons, San Diego has won the West four times. The fact that the Chargers have followed through to only one league championship, in 1963, scarcely diminishes their tyranny over the other teams in their half of the AFL. And, unfortunately for the others, it looks like more of the same for '65. San Diego's personnel is not quite as overpowering as in the past—the other Western clubs are getting stronger, for one thing—but coach Sid Gillman still appears to have a bit too much muscle and speed.

About all that can be said against the Chargers is that John Hadl, for all his promise, has yet to deliver fully as a regular professional quarterback. During his four years as a pro, John has rarely passed with enough consistency to satisfy coach Gillman. In the past, Sid has always kept a veteran passer to fall back on: first, Jackie Kemp; then, when Kemp was snatched away by Buffalo, Gillman signed wise old Tobin Rote to work ahead of Hadl, supposedly while John mellowed. Rote has retired, so now the 210-pound Hadl will finally sing his solo. To give Hadl his due, he had his best passing year in '64: 147 completions in 274 attempts for 53.6 percent and 18 touchdowns. He ranked third in the final AFL passing statistics. More germane to the Chargers, he won six of the eight games he started.

Hadl will have no problems if he can build on that record. If he should slip, however, San Diego has three other quarterbacks on the roster. The most experienced is Don Breau, who played a little with Denver and spent last year on the Charger taxi squad. Then there are Dan Henning and Steve Tensi. Henning, with a very strong arm, played minor-league pro ball in '64 with Springfield of the Atlantic Coast League. Tensi was San Diego's fourth draft pick. At Florida State last year, he was one of the great college passers, throwing mainly to All-America end Fred Biletnikoff, who's now with Oakland. Steve is big, 6-5 and 205 pounds, with a live arm.

Tight halfback Paul Lowe and fullback Keith Lincoln give San Diego the finest inside-outside running combination in the AFL, although maybe Denver's new matchup of Cookie Gilchrist and Abner Haynes comes close. Of course, Lowe keeps telling everybody who'll listen that he does not want to play for the Chargers, that he would like to be traded. But so far his complaints have turned out to be ploys for more money and more "ink" in the press. The Chargers can read, and the record book says that Lowe is still the second leading ground-gainer in the short history of the AFL. He blends good size (205 pounds) with dynamic speed and maneuverability.

Strangely, the departure of Lowe, while it would hurt the San Diego rushing attack, would enable coach Gillman to station Keith Lincoln at a more natural position. You'd never know it from the way he plays, but Keith has been miscast as a fullback. At 212 pounds, he is not really powerful enough. And he has too much speed and versatility to "waste" pounding into the line. Last season, although he was injured on and off, Lincoln finished sixth among the league's ballcarriers, with 632 yards gained on 155 rushes, for a four-yard average. He also was pressed into service as San Diego's emergency place-kicker, converting 16 out of 17 extra points and making five out of 13 field goals.

Switching Keith to halfback would make him more dangerous on wide plays, especially since he throws the option pass as well as anybody in the league. Any one of five men could replace him at fullback, but probably either Keith Kinderman or Jacque MacKinnon. Kinderman, 215 pounds, is in his third pro season. MacKinnon, 6-4 and 250 pounds, is better known as the Chargers' second-string tight end. Gillman also has three rookie fullbacks: 223-pound Jim Allison of San Diego State, 222-pound Willie Beasley of North Carolina A&T, and 211-pound Frank Kinard of Ole Miss. Kinard's father is Bruiser Kinard, great Brooklyn Dodger tackle of the 1930s.

Cookie Gilchrist vs. Earl Faison—it looked like a couple of

The Chargers have two good pass receivers and one great one. The good ones are split end Don Norton and 245-pound tight end Dave Kocourek. The great one is flanker Lance Alworth, considered the most spectacular receiver in the AFL when he is physically fit. But there's the rub. Alworth is rarely physically fit for a whole season. He is not very big (185 pounds) and he has a history of leg injuries, one of which kept him out of the 1964 championship game. Lance caught 61 passes last year, averaging 20.2 yards per reception. He still does not fake as well as some receivers, but it usually couldn't matter less; he just runs right by the defender anyway. He's that fast. Tight end Kocourek, incidentally, could be the league's best at his position should the Chiefs' Fred Arbanas fail to recover from a bad eye injury. The Chargers have an experienced reserve split end in Jerry Robinson and a promising newcomer in Don Floyd, who was Steve Tensi's alternate receiver at Florida State. Gene Washington, 225-pound free agent, will get a chance at tight end.

San Diego's offensive line is solid and getting better. The fulcrum is still 6-4, 250-pound All-Pro tackle Ron Mix, although 265-pound Ernie Wright is not far behind at the other tackle. Pat Shea, 245, and Walt Sweeney, 255, will start at the guards, with 245-pound Don Rogers at center. Shea and Sweeney are underrated players. Sweeney, for example, still hasn't reached his peak. He played end in college, and this is only his third pro season. Considering his size and speed, the Chargers rate him as one of the game's outstanding offensive linemen—and a shatter-proof "Suicide Squad" stud. John Farris, a 240-pounder from San Diego State, will also be tried at guard. San Diego won him in a cash battle with the Los Angeles Rams. Sam Gruneisen, who played guard before he was injured last year, has been moved to center, where he'll compete against Gary Kirner, who's also listed as a tackle. Gruneisen is a smart boy; he has a 150 IQ. At tackle, the principal substitute is experienced Ernie Park.

The Chargers are justifiably proud of their defensive line: Earl Faison and Bob Petrich at the ends, Ernie Ladd and George Gross at the tackles. Actually, you should mention a fifth man, too—tackle Henry Schmidt, who plays a lot and makes certain that the 6-9, 295-pound Ladd doesn't get complacent. Sometimes Gillman starts Schmidt, then lets big Ernie come off the bench raging mad. The weights on these whales indicate why offensive linemen don't like to face San Diego: Faison, 270; Petrich, 257; Gross, 270; and Schmidt, 271. The struggle between Faison and Buffalo's great blocking fullback, Cookie Gilchrist, was a highlight of the championship game. It looked like two prehistoric monsters battering at each other. If you had to declare a winner, it was Gilchrist. But Faison is still considered the fiercest rushing end in the league.

The Chargers don't need much more line meat, but they have it in ends Bob Mitinger and tackle Fred Moore. Mitinger weighs 245 pounds; Moore, 255. One rookie is sure to make the team—and play. He's Tennessee All-America Steve DeLong, 245 pounds, whom Alabama coach Bear Bryant called "the best lineman in the South last year." DeLong was

great, grunting prehistoric beasts battering away at each other

more than that; he was the best lineman in the U.S.A.—and he has the Outland Trophy to prove it. Steve was the first draft pick of both San Diego and the Chicago Bears. He played guard in college, but the Chargers have him listed as a defensive end. DeLong has extraordinary speed, agility, strength and balance, charges hard (especially on pass plays), and uses his hands alarmingly well on blockers who impede his progress. The coaches believe that he could be a superstar at middle linebacker, but that will come later—perhaps when he learns his way around the pros.

For now, the Chargers have all the linebackers they require. Chuck Allen, Emil Karas and Frank Buncom play together well. They're quick and tough, and manage to squash whatever seeps through that jumbo front four. Allen is the "mike man." He weighs 225 pounds and has been in the AFL from the beginning. Rick Redman, an All-America rookie from Allen's old school, Washington, will back up Chuck. Redman is not very big—5-11, 220—but he averaged 12 to 15 tackles a game in college. Rick may also help the Chargers as a punter. John Hadl punted last year and averaged only 39.5 yards. And now that Hadl is the No. 1 quarterback, Gillman may not want to risk having him flattened trying to kick. If possible, you wet-nurse your quarterback.

The training camp infighting among the defensive backs ought to be something. San Diego will bring at least 15 of them to camp. That's an infestation. There's not much doubt about the starters: Jim Warren and Dick Westmoreland at the corners, Kenny Graham and Bud Whitehead at the safeties. The Chargers have gambled with rookie cornerbacks two years in a row. In '63 it was Westmoreland. Now he's an established star. In '64 it was Warren. Jim came through, too. Compounding the gamble, San Diego also got away with rookie Graham at safety. In other words, the team won its division with the whole left side of its defensive backfield composed of first-year players. Whitehead is the daddy of the deep secondary. He's been with the Chargers for five years. George Blair plays behind Graham now, while Dick Harris and Charlie McNeil, also veterans, come off the bench when Whitehead needs a blow. Under normal circumstances, Blair has done the Charger placekicking, but he'll have to beat out Keith Lincoln and rookie Les Murdock of Florida State. Two other possibilities at defensive halfback are Nat Whitmyer and Bob Zeman. Whitmyer was a Los Angeles Ram regular for two years, which may or may not be a recommendation, while Zeman is an "old Charger." He played for the first San Diego team of 1960. Zeman returns after undistinguished service in Denver and New York, where he was cut during last year's exhibition season.

The Chargers lost four draft picks they really ached to sign: ends Roy Jefferson of Utah, Allen Brown of Ole Miss and Jack Snow of Notre Dame, and halfback Clancy Williams of Washington State.

But DeLong, Tensi and Redman are quality rookies who will help the ballclub, so San Diego maintains its records of staying competitive with the NFL. The Chargers should also maintain their record of victory in the West.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

The Raiders reaped the harvest of the best college draft they've ever had. But it won't pay off until next season

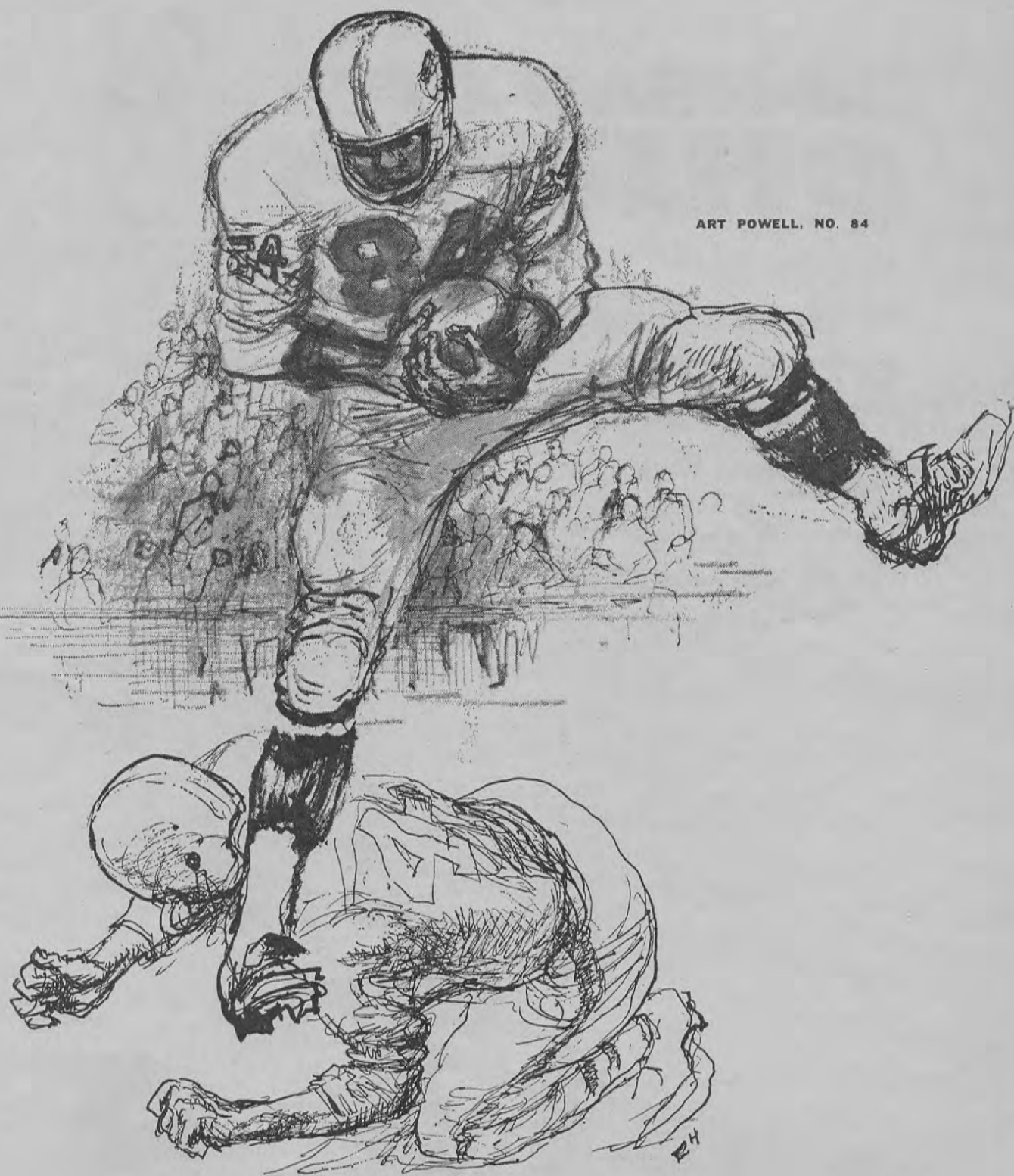
OAKLAND fell from a 10-4 won-lost record in 1963 to 5-7-2. The team finished third in the West, as predicted here last summer. Actually, the Raiders lost several close games early in the season, then finished on a note of triumph with five victories and a tie in their last eight games. Coach Al Davis had the most successful college draft in Oakland history. He signed his first choice (lineman Harry Schuh of Memphis State); his second (end Fred Biletnikoff of Florida State); his third (tackle Bob Svihus of USC); his fourth (linebacker Gus Otto of Missouri); his fifth (tackle Rich Zecher of Utah State); and two 11th-round picks (linebacker Bill Minor of Illinois and defensive back Ken McCloughan of Nebraska). Davis also signed three top future choices—cornerback Larry Todd of Arizona State, defensive end Carleton Oats of Florida A&M, and linebacker Mickey Cox of LSU.

Glutted with all these prospects, coach Davis now pooh-poohs the draft. Go satisfy a coach! Behind this seemingly incongruous situation lies the realization that Oakland must live or die this year with a small nucleus of veterans. Even so, Davis thinks he has his best team yet. His keys on offense are quarterbacks Cotton Davidson and Tom Flores, halfback Clem Daniels, fullback Billy Cannon, center Jim Otto, tackle Ken Rice, guard Wayne Hawkins, split end Art Powell. On defense, the team's strength lies with ends Dalva Allen and Ben Davidson, and linebackers Archie Matsos and J.R. Williamson.

As usual, Oakland will pass a lot. Davidson, now 34, had his finest AFL record in '64, finishing second among the passers with 49.2 percent completions and 18 touchdowns. Flores, 27, threw for seven TDs. Their two top receivers are Art Powell and fullback Billy Cannon. Powell can be the toughest end in the league when he wants to be. He caught 76 passes last year. Cannon caught 40 passes after coming to Oakland from Houston. Flanker Bo Roberson will have to defend his job against rookie Biletnikoff. Ken Herock, 230, and Jan Barrett, 222, the tight ends, are good blockers.

Clem Daniels, 220, is the big runner. He was the No. 3 rusher in the AFL last year. Gene Mingo, the ex-Bronco, and Bob Jackson, the ex-Charger, are the reserve backs. They'll get their interior line blocking from Frank Youso and Ken Rice at the tackles, Wayne Hawkins and Bob Mischak at the guards, and five-year All-AFL Jim Otto at center. Rookies Schuh and Zecher will work in at guard, Svihus at tackle.

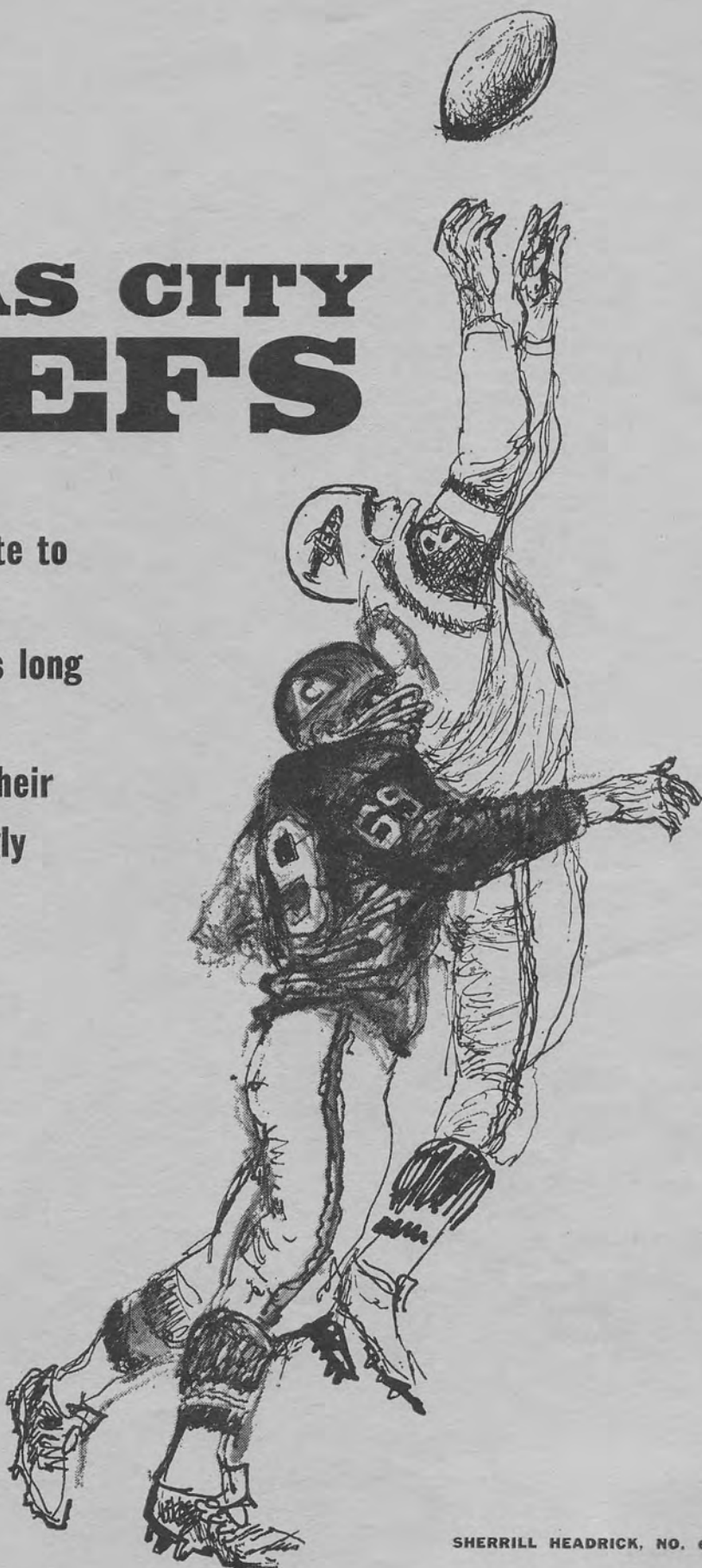
The defense has been improving. Dalva Allen has eight pro years at one end, while the 6-7, 265-pound Ben Davidson keeps getting better at the other. Dan Birdwell, Dave Costa and Rex Mirich, all 250 pounds, are the tackles. Middle linebacker Archie Matsos, only 212 pounds, still has plenty left at 30. He's flanked by second-year man J.R. Williamson and Clancy Osborn, the old 49er. Bill Budness and Dan Connors both played well as rookies, and Gus Otto (no relation to Jim) has a chance to stick. There's one major change in the secondary. Cornerback Fred Williamson has been traded to K.C. for Dave Grayson. Rookie Larry Todd will get first crack at the other corner. There are four experienced safeties: Howie Williams, Warren Powers, Joe Krakoski and Claude Gibson.



ART POWELL, NO. 84

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Chiefs are fortunate to have health insurance. Their hospital list is as long as head coach Hank Stram's face. Judge their title chances accordingly



SHERRILL HEADRICK, NO. 69

GIVEN GOOD HEALTH, the Chiefs would be a strong contender. But, realistically, there are too many slowly healing surgical scars for the club to equal last season's second-place finish. The most serious casualty is 6-3, 241-pound tight end Fred Arbanas, the best in the league. A local birdbrain accosted him in the street and sneak-punched him in the left eye. After two operations, the doctors are still not sure that full vision has been restored—or whether Fred can play pro football. Next, consider the plight of E.J. Holub, an All-AFL linebacker for three years. He missed the final five games of '64 with a bad knee. He has since undergone his seventh knee operation. Seven may not be lucky for him. Linebacker Walt Cory also underwent post-season knee surgery. Defensive back Johnny Robinson's torn rib cartilages have not healed as well as expected. Split end Chris Burford's weak knee still handicaps him. And power runner Curt McClinton played disappointingly after fracturing his hand in training camp.

One other injury is worth mentioning. It will affect the whole K.C. offense. Namely, the fact that halfback Abner Haynes was hustled off to Denver. Haynes was the team's leading rusher last year, fifth in the league. The Chiefs had hoped to replace him with first draft choice Gale Sayers of Kansas, but Sayers signed with the Chicago Bears instead. That means coach Hank Stram's only experienced halfback is 220-pound perennial Bert Coan. Coan had great potential in college, but then he broke his leg and he has never gotten going as a pro. Of course, Stram could switch McClinton to halfback and team him with Hill in an "earthshaker backfield." McClinton weighs 232 pounds; Hill, 236. They'd supply awesome power, but not much speed. Hill was the league's biggest sleeper last year. Mack "The Truck" got his chance when McClinton hurt his hand, then never let Curt dislodge him. Hill's 5.4-yard rushing average was the highest in the league.

Quarterback Len Dawson probably wouldn't mind having two big backs blocking for him. Dawson led all AFL passers (56.2 completion percentage, 30 TDs). But his protection broke down so often that he missed three games because of injuries. Dawson will have to do it alone now. His backstop, Eddie Wilson, has been traded to the Boston Patriots. That leaves only second-year pro Pete Beathard.

If Arbanas cannot come back, the pass-receiving will be so-so. Burford caught 51 passes in '64, a decline of 17 from his '63 record. The real star is flanker Frank Jackson. Nobody seems to know his rightful name, yet Jackson was the No. 4 receiver in the league last year, with 62 catches. Behind Arbanas stand Tommy Brooker and Reg Carolan. Brooker, the team's placekicker, caught no passes in '64, and Carolan caught only three. The Chiefs hope rookies can furnish some end speed and skill: Otis Taylor of Prairie View, Frank Pitts of Southern, Jerry Lamb of Arkansas, Gloster Richardson of Jackson State and Bob Bonds of San Jose State.

Jim Tyrer, 292-pound All-League tackle, is the workhorse of the offensive line. Ed Budde and Curt Merz are the guards, Jon Gilliam the center, and Jerry Cornelison the other tackle. Three rookies will break in at tackle: Ernie Borghetti of Pitt, Willie Christian of Prairie View, and John Fritsch of the San Diego Marines. Rookie Al Dotson of Grambling could become a top rushing end.

Coach Stram often uses what he calls a "stack defense." Only three linemen rush, leaving four linebackers behind. The defensive starters are Jerry Mays and Mel Branch at the ends, Ed Lothamer and Buck Buchanan at the tackles. Mays is All-AFL and Buchanan might make it this year. Bobby Bell will surely make it at corner linebacker. Holub will play the middle, if he's fit, with Corey at right linebacker. Fortunately, there are excellent replacements: Smokey Stover, Sherrill Headrick and Jim Fraser, traded from Denver. Fraser is also the league's top punter. The outstanding rookie linebacker is Ron Caveness of Arkansas. The Chiefs feel they have strengthened their defensive backfield by obtaining Fred Williamson from Oakland. Williamson will play left corner, opposite Willie Mitchell. Bobby Hunt and Johnny Robinson are the safeties.



LIONEL TAYLOR, NO. 87

DENVER BRONCOS

The weak sister of all AFL franchises now sprouts muscles (Mr. Gilchrist) and wings (Mr. Haynes). Denver will win more than two football games this season

DENVER USED TO BE the Siberia of the AFL. Attendance was so poor that a franchise shift to Atlanta seemed inevitable. Now Atlanta must shift for itself. Two major trades and a good college draft have given the Broncos exciting potential. The fans sense it, too. Advance ticket sales are expected to reach 24,000, against 7,996 last year.

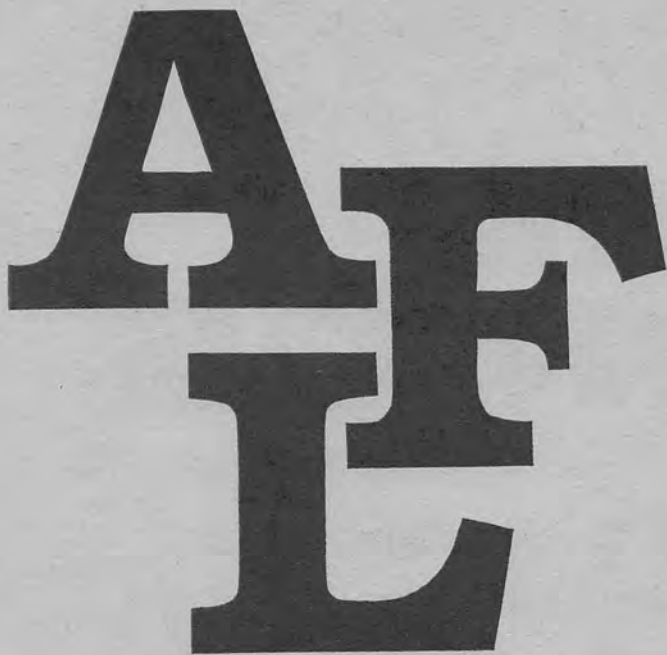
First off, coach Mac Speedie has the core of an outstanding running game. He got the league's leading ballcarrier, Cookie Gilchrist, to play fullback, and Abner Haynes to play tight halfback. Gilchrist runs like a tractor (4.2-yard average last season) and blocks like a tackle. Haynes should play better now that he's left Kansas City, where he was unhappy. Abner is the leading rusher in league history, with a total of 3280 yards. Gilchrist ranks third. Jim Crawford and Donnie Stone have experience at fullback, while Charlie Mitchell, the '64 starter, and Odell Barry are fast, shifty halfbacks.

Don't ask about quarterback. The Broncos made a big thing out of getting Jacky Lee on loan from Houston last year. Lee completed 50.1 percent of his passes for Denver, but his name is barely mentioned in the Bronco's '65 prospectus. And when it is, Lee comes way behind often-injured John McCormick and young Mickey Slaughter. Whichever quarterback starts will have good receivers. The best is spread end Lionel Taylor, 76 receptions last year. Taylor won't be double-teamed as often now, because Gilchrist and Haynes are dangerous receivers. And big flanker Al Denson should be improved. Hewritt Dixon, 217-pound converted halfback, and 250-pound Matt Snorton are the tight ends.

In the offensive line, Jerry Sturm will move from center to guard. The idea is to get 245-pound soph Ray Kubala in at center. The tackles are Eldon Danenhauer, Tom Nomina and Harold Olson, all veterans, none stars. Bob McCullough is the other guard. Denver signed 250-pound Tulsa rookie Bob Breitenstein, a tackle, outbidding the NFL Redskins, but Breitenstein has been having second thoughts.

On defense the Raiders blitz a lot. Last year they forced 32 interceptions and dropped enemy passers for 44 losses. Ends Ed Cooke and Leroy Moore, tackles Ray Jacobs and Charlie Janerette, comprise the front four. There is an old-pro reserve end, Stan Fanning, and a 240-pound rookie, Max Leetzow of Idaho. Tim Erlandson, Jerry Hopkins and Larry Jordan are the linebackers, with Gene Jeter, a rookie from Arkansas AM&N, in reserve. The deep secondary is a young unit, with three starters returning: cornerback Willie Brown and safeties Goose Gonsoulin and John McGeever. Brown made the All-AFL team as a '64 rookie. Gerry Bussell, a rookie from Georgia Tech, is expected to play the other corner. Miller Farr of Wichita is another good rookie.

Denver is getting to be the Pittsburgh Steelers of the AFL: very tough physically, very aggressive, very hungry. With a few stars now shedding some light, the club should win four or five games—which would mean 100-percent improvement.



American Football League Schedule

SEPTEMBER 11 SATURDAY

*Boston at Buffalo
*Denver at San Diego

SEPTEMBER 12 SUNDAY

Kansas City at Oakland
New York at Houston

SEPTEMBER 18 SATURDAY

*Kansas City at New York

SEPTEMBER 19 SUNDAY

San Diego at Oakland
Buffalo at Denver
Boston at Houston

SEPTEMBER 24 FRIDAY

*Denver at Boston

SEPTEMBER 26 SUNDAY

Kansas City at San Diego
Houston at Oakland
New York at Buffalo

OCTOBER 3 SUNDAY

Houston at San Diego
New York at Denver
Boston at Kansas City
Oakland at Buffalo

OCTOBER 8 FRIDAY

*Oakland at Boston

OCTOBER 10 SUNDAY

Kansas City at Denver
San Diego at Buffalo
Houston and New York—Bye

OCTOBER 16 SATURDAY

*Oakland at New York

OCTOBER 17 SUNDAY

Houston at Denver
Buffalo at Kansas City
San Diego at Boston

OCTOBER 23 SATURDAY

*San Diego at New York

OCTOBER 24 SUNDAY

Boston at Oakland
Kansas City at Houston
Denver at Buffalo

OCTOBER 31 SUNDAY

Boston at San Diego
Oakland at Kansas City
Houston at Buffalo
Denver at New York

NOVEMBER 7 SUNDAY

San Diego at Denver
New York at Kansas City
Oakland at Houston
Buffalo at Boston

NOVEMBER 14 SUNDAY

Buffalo at Oakland
San Diego at Kansas City
Denver at Houston
New York at Boston

NOVEMBER 21 SUNDAY

Oakland at Denver
Houston at New York
Kansas City at Boston
San Diego and Buffalo—Bye

NOVEMBER 25 THURSDAY (Thanksgiving Day)

Buffalo at San Diego

NOVEMBER 28 SUNDAY

Houston at Kansas City
Boston at New York
Oakland and Denver—Bye

DECEMBER 4 SATURDAY

New York at San Diego

DECEMBER 5 SUNDAY

Denver at Oakland
Buffalo at Houston
Kansas City and Boston—Bye

DECEMBER 12 SUNDAY

New York at Oakland
Boston at Denver
San Diego at Houston
Kansas City at Buffalo

DECEMBER 18 SATURDAY

Houston at Boston

DECEMBER 19 SUNDAY

Oakland at San Diego
Denver at Kansas City
Buffalo at New York

DECEMBER 25 SATURDAY (Christmas)

Championship Game (Western Division
winner the host club).

*Night Game